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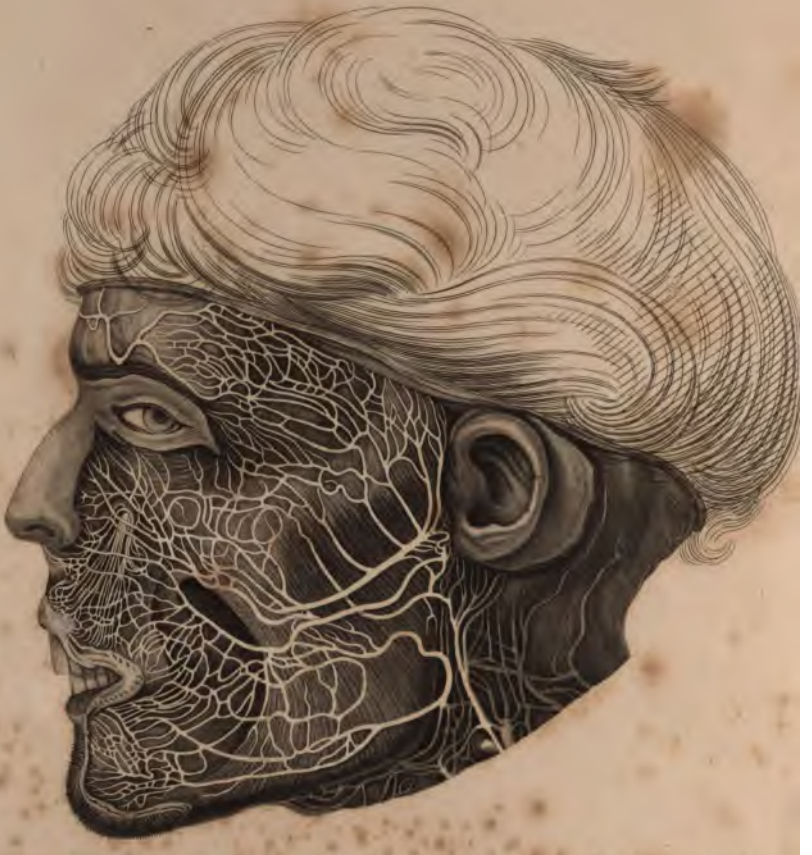

W. Lepin delin.t

J. Stewart sculp.t

This Plate is intended to shew the distribution of the Nerves principally affected by Neuralgia Faciei Spasmodica: as explained in Mr. Hutchinson's Cases of Neuralgia Spasmodica commonly termed Tic Douloureux, successfully treated.

Published by Longman & Co. London, Jan.y 26.th 1818.

CASES

OF

NEURALGIA SPASMODICA,

COMMONLY TERMED

TIC DOULOUREUX

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

By BENJ. HUTCHINSON,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF LONDON, &c. &c.

SECOND EDITION,

ILLUSTRATED WITH

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF THE SUCCESS ATTENDING THE AUTHOR'S MODE OF MANAGING THIS DISEASE:

AND WITH A PLATE REPRESENTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NERVES OF THE FACE USUALLY AFFECTED.

Quicquid in arte meâ, possum promittere curæ,
Quod fieri FERRO, liquidove potest electro.

VIRG. *Æn.* lib. viii.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,

PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1822.

LONDON:
Printed by A. & R. Spottiswoode,
New-Street-Square.

TO

JOHN STORER, M.D. F.R.S.

CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, NEAR NOTTINGHAM,

&c. &c.

My Dear Sir,

There is no honorary distinction of more respectable origin, than the voluntary homage which is paid to persons at the head of a learned and useful profession, by those who are engaged in the same pursuits.

The gratifying success which has almost uniformly accompanied you in the practice

of your profession, and the zealous ardour with which you have ever promoted the advancement of our science, fully entitle you to every token of respect and attention from all classes of society, but more especially from those who have profited by your able instructions, or benefited by your valuable advice.

I beg your acceptance of this small and public acknowledgment of gratitude for the advantages I have derived from a long and uninterrupted professional communication with you, (a period of nearly thirty years continuance,) and for various kind offices of friendship, with which you have at all times honoured me.

The favourable sentiments which your candour induced you to express on the

first appearance of this little essay, will not, I trust, in any respect be diminished by a confirmation of the practical fact, in this the second Edition — a confirmation, the result of the concurring testimony of some of our most respectable brethren in the profession.

Influenced, therefore, upon the present occasion, by no other motives than those of the most sincere respect, I shall wholly forbear offending your delicacy, through any vain attempt to impress the world with a more exalted opinion than they already entertain of your character and abilities. You will permit me, however, to conclude this address with my most ardent wishes for your long enjoyment of that health which you are every day communicating to others; and of that happiness, which, from ample experience, you well

know to be the genuine result of benevolent actions.

Believe me to remain,
My dear Sir,
With great esteem,
Your faithful and obedient Servant,

BENJ. HUTCHINSON.

Southwell, May, 1822.

" Pain also itself is not without its alleviations. It may be " violent and frequent; but it is seldom both violent and long " continued: and its pauses and intermissions become positive pleasures. It has the power of shedding a satisfaction " over intervals of ease, which, I believe, few enjoyments " exceed. A man resting from a fit of the stone or gout, (or " of any disease accompanied with excruciating pain,) is for " the time, in possession of feelings, which undisturbed " health cannot impart. They may be dearly bought, but " still they are to be set against the price. And, indeed, " it depends upon the duration and urgency of the pain, " whether they be dearly bought or not. I am far from " being sure, that a man is not a gainer by suffering a " moderate interruption of bodily ease for a couple of " hours out of the four and twenty. Two very common observations favour this opinion: one is, that remissions of " pain call forth, from those who experience them, stronger " expressions of satisfaction and of gratitude, towards both " the author and the instruments of their relief, than are " excited by advantages of any other kind: the second is, " that the spirits of sick men, do not sink in proportion to " the acuteness of their sufferings: but rather appear to be " roused and supported, not by pain, but by the high " degree of comfort which they derive from its cessation, " or even its subsidency, whenever that occurs: and which " they taste with a relish that diffuses some portion of mental complacency over the whole of that mixed state of " sensations, in which disease has placed them."

PALEY'S " *Natural Theology*," page 408.

CASES

OF

TIC DOULOUREUX,

&c.

It is not an arcanum, nor a panacea; it is neither a new remedy nor a new theory, to which I am desirous of calling the attention of my medical brethren.

I intend nothing more than to present a few observations which I have made on the successful administration of a mineral substance well known, but too much neglected, or inaccurately or inefficiently employed. — These observations, however, will, of course, admit of considerable amplification in this second impression, from my extended experience of the effects of this mineral.

Nothing is easier than to form, and to adopt new systems of nosology or of therapeutics, and to impose them as infallible or specific, on some of the junior members of the medical profession, who are more readily dazzled by the brilliancy of speculative theory, than convinced by the beautiful simplicity of truth.

The desire of abridging the labour which conducts to fame and fortune, has made more than one physician prefer this more seductive plan to that of observation, which is slow, sometimes painful, and destitute of all splendour. But when we bring with us into the practice of medicine a disposition to observe, we soon detect the insufficiency of speculative theories. The new improvements in every branch of natural philosophy, notwithstanding their apparent utility, discover to us at every step how much is left unaccomplished, and that even their

splendour has not wholly dissipated our darkness. We are forced to acknowledge the necessity of calling to our aid, facts founded on repeated experiments. For, it is not speculation alone which must be the guide of the physician; he requires other and much more able supports: he must be a close observer: he must search into nature herself for the truth of his ideas. In a word, he must submit his theory to the test of a series of trials, and wait its confirmation from a multitude of proofs. "The true physician," says Baglivi, "is he who studies nature best, and who is led by a profound investigation into her most hidden mysteries, by a chain of observations, conducted by good sense, and severe reflection."

It is to experience that medicine owes its origin and progress; to experience it is indebted for the knowledge of the virtues

of remedies; it is experience alone, therefore, that in the present day can be the most certain guide to sound and successful practice. If the Americans discovered the virtues of the Bark, it was neither to their philosophy nor to their speculations in natural history, nor was it to their physiological or to their chemical knowledge, that they were indebted—it was solely to their observation and experience. If, very lately, Dr. JENNER has enriched medicine by one of the most happy and valuable, and to humanity the most consoling of discoveries, it is to observation and experience that it is due.

It will be seen in the following cases that I have not neglected general means, when circumstances required them; but I must attribute my success in the management of an hitherto most obstinate disease, to the activity with which I have

employed a remedy, hitherto administered in doses far too small to produce the advantages which may be derived from its use in the treatment of other diseases, besides the one to which I intend at present to request the attention of my brethren.

My views in publishing this small pamphlet being solely of a practical nature, my observations will be principally confined to the successful mode of managing the malady in question, without entering into any laboured history of its name, its seat, its symptoms, its proximate, and predisposing causes, its diagnosis and prognosis. My principal aim will be directed to its removal, or alleviation; the anxiously wished-for desiderata of every sufferer, and of every honest practitioner.

It is pretty accurately ascertained that the seat of the neuralgia faciei is usually

confined to the superior maxillary nerve, or the second branch of the fifth pair, and the portio dura of the seventh pair, or pes anserinus*, distributed over the face.

It is rather a difficult task to trace the branches of the fifth pair by dissection, as those branches are distributed among the bones of the face, to the eyes, nose, mouth, tongue, and throat. From this extensive distribution, the fifth nerve is necessarily the largest of those which pass out of the cranium. It is of a flattened form, and is said by Mickel to resemble the flat worm, or tænia: it penetrates the dura mater at the anterior point of the petrous bone, and spreads flat under it: here, under the dura mater, it is matted into one irregular ganglion, the semilunar ganglion. This ganglion lies on the anterior point of the

* Of late denominated by Mr. Charles Bell, the respiratory nerve of the face.

temporal, and on the sphenoidal bone. It is not similar in structure to the proper ganglion, and has indeed more resemblance to a plexus. In the passage from the brain, the filaments composing the fifth nerve, are loose or easily separated: at this place they are all found so subdivided and entangled as to resist further division. The nerve here swells out into a great size: it seems to be incorporated with the dense fibres of the dura mater: it becomes of a dark red or mixed colour; having a semilunar mass of matter of the same appearance as ganglion stretching across it: all which circumstances have by no means been unobserved by anatomists. Vieussens supposed, that the use of this ganglion of the fifth pair, before it perforates the cranium, was to strengthen the nerve, and enable it to withstand the motion of the jaws: but it would rather seem to be a ganglion connecting in sympathy, all those

parts to which the nerve is finally distributed. The connection of this ganglion with the dura mater is so firm, that it yet remains undecided whether any nerves are sent off here to that membrane. Mr. Bell imagines that there are none, and that the connection of the ganglion with the fibrous membrane or sheath which covers it, has been mistaken for nerves passing from the ganglion to the dura mater. From the semilunar ganglion, the fifth nerve divides into three great branches, whence the name of trigemini:

1*st.* The ophthalmic branch of Willis, which passes through the foramen lacerum into the orbit.

2*d.* The superior maxillary nerve, which passes through the foramen rotundum.

3*d.* The inferior maxillary nerve, which passes to the lower jaw, through the foramen ovale.

The portio dura of the seventh pair, in passing from the brain to the internal auditory foramen, is lodged in the fore part of the auditory nerve, as in a groove. When it leaves the auditory nerve, it passes on through the bone, and emerges on the side of the face, through the stylo-mastoid foramen at the root of the styloid process, so as to come out betwixt the lower jaw and the ear, and of course by the parotid gland. The portio dura, while passing through the canal of the temporal bone, gives off a branch, which unites with the vidian nerve of the fifth pair, or rather we may conclude with the best authors, that it receives a branch which comes retrograde from the vidian nerve, passing through the small hole on the anterior surface of the petrous portion of the temporal bone. The portio dura, when it has proceeded onwards by the side of the tympanum, gives off one or more very minute branches to the muscles

within the tympanum, which give tension to the small bones of the ear. A little further on, this nerve gives off a more remarkable branch, which passing across the tympanum, is called corda tympani. This is the branch which joins the gustatory branch of the lower maxillary nerve. The corda tympani passes into the tympanum by the hole in the pyramid: it takes its course in the membrane betwixt the long process of the incus, and the handle of the malleus: then received into a groove of the bone, it passes by the side of the eustachian tube, and often enlarging considerably, it is united with the gustatory nerve. When the portio dura has escaped from the stylo-mastoid foramen, but is yet behind the condyle of the lower jaw, and under the parotid gland, it gives off,

1*st*. The posterior auris: this has connection with the first cervical nerve, and

passing up behind the ear, it is connected with the occipital branches of the third cervical nerve.

2d. The nervus stylo-hyoideus to the styloid muscles, and to unite with the sympathetic.

3d. A branch which supplies some of the deep muscles, and joins the laryngeal branch of the eighth pair.

The portio dura, rising through the parotid gland, spreads out in three great divisions, and where it divides, the membranes connecting the divisions are like webs between them, and this has given to this division, the name which has been before mentioned, pes anserinus.

These being the nerves principally affected in the neuralgia faciei, I have thought it useful to give a brief anatomical description of them.

The late Dr. John Fothergill published a well-written and instructive paper on the subject of this disease in the fifth volume of the Medical Observations and Inquiries, wherein he denominates the malady "a painful affection of the face." — Sauvages, who had evidently seen but little of the disease, gave to it the improper names of "trismus dolorificus," and "trismus maxillaris."—Dr. Darwin has called it "hemicrania idiopathica."— Some German writers have honoured Dr. Fothergill by styling it "dolor faciei Fothergilli."— A more modern and very sensible writer on the subject, Dr. Samuel Fothergill, a nephew, I believe, of the late Dr. Fothergill, has given to it the title of "faciei morbus nervorum crucians." —The accurate and learned Dr. Heberden, in his excellent volume of Commentaries on the History and Cure of Diseases, has given a concise and excellent chapter on this subject, which he thus designates, "De Dolore Capitis

intermittente." — This chapter contains many valuable remarks. To the French we are indebted for the name by which the disease is generally known (the tic douloureux); without much meaning or conveying any idea by which the malady in question might be known or distinguished from any other; a circumstance very desirable in medical nomenclature. Dr. Kerrison, an ingenious physician, published, in the year 1820, his inaugural thesis at Edinburgh, on this disease, which he denominated, "Neuralgia *Facialis* spasmodica."

I object to the word *facialis*, as not existing in the Latin language. I should be much disposed to adopt Dr. Kerrison's nomenclature, with a very trifling alteration, "Neuralgia *Faciei* spasmodica."

The name adopted by Dr. Samuel Fothergill appears to me less objectionable

than any other, with the exception of that of Dr. Kerrison, possessing the power of conveying a distinct idea of the seat and nature of the disorder: he notices the unpleasant length of the title, but could not imagine one that would be shorter, and at the same time equally expressive.

Previous to entering upon the more successful treatment of the neuralgia faciei, than has hitherto been practised, I think it necessary to give a very brief account of its leading symptoms, and of the means which have been usually employed for its relief.

The complaint is not of such rare occurrence, as many have imagined. The late Dr. J. Fothergill met with sixteen cases;—Thouret with as many, or more;—Pujol with about the same number;—Seibold with several;—Lentin with fourteen;—

M. Andrée with six : and several practitioners of the present day have had an abundance of cases come under their notice. It is perhaps more from want of observation, than from its unfrequency, that we are so little acquainted with it ; many practitioners referring such pains to rheumatism, gout, tooth-ache, &c. &c. To those, however, who have the slightest pretensions to just discrimination and accurate judgment, its symptoms are sufficiently marked, and highly characteristic. — Since the publication of the first edition of this pamphlet, more than two hundred cases of this truly afflicting malady, have fallen under my observation.

The more frequent seat of this affection is in the nerves over the os malæ, just below the orbit, the alæ nasi, teeth and gums. When this is the case, it will be found to proceed from the second branch of the fifth

pair of nerves, the superior maxillary nerve, which passes through the foramen rotundum, and whose branches are chiefly distributed to those parts. Sometimes the forehead and temple, and inner canthus of the eye, and even the globe of the eye itself, are first affected, from the first branch of the fifth pair, the ophthalmic branch being the subject of the disease. And as there are some cases recorded in which the patient suffered much from an effusion of scalding tears, it might probably arise from that branch of the ophthalmic which goes to the lachrymal gland being affected. The two other chief branches of the ophthalmic, which are, however, very rarely the seat of this affection, are the frontal and the nasal; the first of which is distributed to the muscles surrounding the eye, and the muscles and integuments of the forehead; whilst the nasal branch passes obliquely through the orbit, giving off one or two

twigs to the fasciculi of the ciliary nerves; and then is continued between the superior oblique and adductor muscles, passes through the internal orbital foramen, and after again entering the skull, passes once more out of the cranium, through the cribriform plate of the ethmoid bone, to be finally distributed to the superior spongy bones and frontal sinuses. When, in addition to the parts already named, the lower jaw and the tongue are affected, the third branch of the fifth pair, or lower maxillary nerve is diseased. Perhaps as frequently as any of these nerves, is the portio dura of the seventh pair affected; it gives off branches, as I have before observed, to most parts of the face, and from its manner of spreading, is called pes anserinus. Its branches communicate with several of those of the fifth pair. The distinguishing mark of its being affected is, that besides the parts already enumerated, we find pain in

the ear, the mastoid process, and in the angle of the lower jaw.*

The disease is then generally confined to the fifth pair of nerves, of which most frequently the second branch is only affected, and the branches of the portio dura of the seventh pair. But from the intimate connexion of most of the branches of these nerves with each other, the disease seldom continues long without extending its ravages. It has often been observed by our eminent anatomists, that the branches of the carotid artery have a peculiar provision of nerves; and that these nerves are more

* When the seventh pair is affected, we can be at no loss to know the seat, for the patient complains of a pain which begins in the forepart of the cheek, sometimes as high as the forehead, and extends itself in the direction of the ear. In a case of this kind, no relief whatever can be obtained, by dividing the second branch of the fifth, as such a division cannot possibly give any interruption to the communication between the sensorium, and the seat of irritation.

numerous, and more minutely distributed, than in any other part of the body. There are indeed no nerves, in any part of the body, which have so extensive and such intricate connexions with important vital nerves, as the cutaneous nerves of the face and neck. This distribution of the nerves is conjectured by an able anatomist to furnish a provision for that power possessed by the imagination, or rather that uncontrolable connexion which exists between the feelings and the action of the vessels in blushing, and in the expression of the passions.

These physiological views of the nervous system of the face, have been much amplified of late by Mr. Charles Bell; who, in the second part of the Philosophical Transactions for 1821, has published an ingenious paper containing experiments on the structure and functions of nerves, which, he

thinks, may lead to a new arrangement of the system. Of this paper (the precursor of others on the same important subject) I recommend to my reader an attentive perusal. I cannot but lament that in this little work, necessarily confined to a plain matter of practical fact, I should be deemed widely wandering from my subject to enter upon any physiological discussion on the structure and functions of the nervous system, when I am expressly treating on a minute portion of its pathology. I shall claim permission only, in this place, to name with admiration the ingenuity and highly meritorious industry displayed by the author of this interesting paper.

The complaint commences with slight and almost imperceptible attacks of pain, and generally without any warning; though some patients feel in the affected part peculiar and inexplicable sensations preceding

its approach, from which they can announce with horror the coming enemy; the patient at the same time enjoying a good or an indifferent state of health. The pain, however, soon becomes more acute and lancinating, shooting and darting along the various ramifications of the affected nerves: it generally continues from a quarter to half a minute, and seldom exceeds the space of one minute. It returns at intervals more or less frequent: there being sometimes several paroxysms in a few minutes: and at other times there are intervals of from fifteen to thirty minutes, or longer. There is no determinate period: we always find the utmost irregularity, even in the same patient.

The pains vary in their degree of intensity; at one time exciting the most piercing cries, and distracted writhings and motions in the afflicted patient, while at another

they are more bearable. When at the acmé of their violence, the parts affected are often convulsed, and sometimes various contortions and grimaces are observable. These are to be distinguished from the convulsive twitchings of the muscles with which the diseased nerves communicate, and which are occasioned by irritation from the excessive pain; while the contortions and grimaces are voluntary, being caused by by the patient's writhing and twisting from the agony of his torture, and may be prevented by a firm resolution to resist any impulse of shrinking from the attack.

Pujol observes, that in the beginning the complaint is not well marked: sometimes the patients only feel acute darting pains, which shoot with incredible rapidity along the part which is the seat of the disease: or they feel dull and continued pains, which gradually become more acute, and only gain the full extent of their violence in be-

coming intermittent: at other times, says the same writer, the disease is ushered in with a swelling of the whole cheek, and a racking pain, much greater than is caused by a simple *fluxion*: the tumour daily subsides, and the disease daily advances. In one instance, the tumour terminated by suppuration in the interior of the cheek: I should, however, much doubt such being genuine cases of the neuralgia faciei, as the instances observed by the most accurate practitioners are unattended with inflammation or swelling. There are, however, I know, exceptions to this general rule.

The pain does not always confine itself to the seat of the disease, but darts with the rapidity of lightning to the neighbouring parts, shooting in different directions, like radii from a centre. It rarely gives warning of its approach, and frequently the first sign of an attack is the patient

starting up in a state little short of phrenzy. In this condition, some patients beat the parts with violence, or forcibly rub them with some rough substance till excoriation takes place; and in some few instances they have thus succeeded in diminishing the intensity of the pain.

Pujol gives a very striking picture of a person seized with a paroxysm of this excruciating malady; and as his work is not much known, and is difficult to be obtained in this country, no apology is necessary for giving a short extract. "When we observe a person who actually feels a pretty sharp attack of tic douloureux in the cheek, we see him knit his brows; both the eyelids are strongly compressed, and the commissure of the lips is drawn towards the ear, as in the Sardonian laughter. The lower jaw remains immoveable, and in the same situation in which it was at the mo-

ment of attack: the respiration is slow, as if suspended; and often the patient dare not make the least cry, nor utter a single exclamation. He even seems to dread the slightest motion of the body, and his forced attitudes, and almost ecstatic state, much better express the violence of his pains, than can any verbal description. No sooner is he free from the attack, than he complains of what he has felt in the most mournful tones, and in language the most energetic. In general such patients are so much occupied with the thoughts of their malady, that they soon become indifferent to the charms of society, and incapable of attending to any other object than themselves."

The pains are more frequent during the day than in the night, probably from there being at this time fewer causes of irritation; and they are more frequent during conversation than in silence, and still more

so at the time of mastication, when the attacks often succeed each other with such rapidity, as to appear like one continued paroxysm, with scarcely an interval of cessation.

The eye at times is red and watery, as we sometimes observe in severe odontalgia: in other cases it is particularly dry, and in some patients a copious flow of saliva succeeds the paroxysm.

In general only one side of the face is afflicted with this dreadful disorder: but as there are cases recorded in which both sides suffered at the same time, we cannot lay it down as a certain characteristic of the disease.

Fouquet observed at Montpellier, two women who had both cheeks affected at the same time; and Pujol knew a lady who,

for several months, had the pain in one cheek, which, after a time, was free from pain, but the other cheek was immediately attacked in the corresponding place; the pain continued here for two months, and then resumed its former position.

When the disease continues for a great length of time with increasing violence, the patient can neither obtain rest by night nor by day: his appetite fails, and, as may be expected, there is some degree of pyrexia: this, however, but rarely happens, and only in cases of the utmost severity.

Pains, said to resemble those of the morbus crucians, are sometimes met with in other parts of the body. Sir Astley Cooper mentions a case in which the radial nerve was affected, and Lentin one, where the pain was seated in the calf of the right leg. If one nerve be affected, surely any

other may be equally susceptible of a similar affection.

Hartenkeil, Hildebrande, Baldinger, and some other German writers, relate cases of what they call tic douloureux; which, though in some particulars they resemble that affection, in others differ from it very materially. The first of these writers describes it as having been very prevalent at Salzburg: but the pain was periodical, recurring once in twenty-four hours; often remaining for several hours at a time, and then suddenly departing.

I should, however, rather suppose these to be cases of hemicrania, which has, in many instances, been observed to attack the patients periodically, and to yield to the bark.—In the cases recorded by Hartenkeil, we are informed that the occasional causes were, exposure to cold and moist air, caries

of the teeth, the use of hot drinks and soups. The seat of the disease was in the ear, teeth, temples, and os frontis: the proximate cause he imagined to be a gouty principle — *principe arthritique.* These cases were cured by the bark and opium in large doses. But those who are familiar with the symptoms of the neuralgia faciei, well know their superior degree of violence, the shortness of the interval between each attack, and the obstinacy with which they resist the generality of remedies opposed to them.

I have observed a much greater proportion of females than males to have laboured under this complaint, in unison with the opinion of Dr. J. Fothergill and Pujol: and my experience has taught me, that constitutions of the greatest sensibility are more exposed to the assaults of this enemy

than those of a more firm and robust texture. I am aware that I differ on this point from such respectable authorities as Dr. Samuel Fothergill, Thouret, Andrée, Barnard, and Sauvages: I state, however, the results of my observation and experience.*

Mr. Abernethy, Sir Astley Cooper, Dr. Haighton, Mr. Cruickshanks, Mr. Thomas, and several other respectable practitioners, have in different instances interrupted the communication between the originally diseased nerve and the sensorium, with various degrees of success. Mr. Abernethy published a case of this disease, situate in the ring-finger of the left-hand: its torments were much mitigated bythe operation.

* "Uterque sexus obnoxious est huic morbo: maxime autem fœminæ: nulla ætas secura est, a pueritiâ, usque ad octogesimum vitæ annum." Heberdeni Comment.

Sir Astley Cooper has operated several times with temporary success; and sometimes his operations have been attended with a more permanent relief.

Dr. Darwin's case, operated on by Mr. Thomas, was attended with a happy result; and Dr. Haighton's operation was successful. To these might be opposed a long catalogue of failures, wherein the knife had been used by no niggardly hand, and with scarcely more than a temporary relief, to reward the patience and fortitude of the sufferer.

In the second volume of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, Mr. Kitson of Bath relates the successful case of an operation which he performed on a man aged twenty-eight, attacked with pain over the orbit of the left eye, which continued many hours, when it ceased, and did not return until the next morning. On Mr.

K.'s first visit, he found his patient affected with universal spasm, his pulse weak, tremulous and irregular; his eyebrows drawn down, and the eyelids constantly closed: the spasms would relax a short time, and return with violence: he was perfectly sensible, and complained of pain over the orbit of the left eye, immediately in the situation of the frontal nerve: he said he could cover the part with the point of his finger; but that the pain extended into the orbit, and over the forehead; the part was not swelled, nor was the skin inflamed. The pain was increased by pressure, which would instantly bring on the spasms. It was with difficulty he could be persuaded to open his eyes. Mr. K. gave him wine and other stimuli with but little advantage: the pains and spasms increased, and the man persisting that they proceeded solely from the spot over the orbit, and that he was free from pain in every other part, Mr. K.

determined to divide the frontal nerve, and made an incision, about half an inch in length, directly above the eyebrow down to the bone: the supraorbitary artery was divided, but not more than two ounces of blood were lost. The operation gave him great pain, and brought on a violent attack of spasm: in a few minutes he said he was free from pain, and the spasm ceased. The wound soon healed; and we are not informed whether or not the disease, with all its direful train of sufferings, returned with the sensation of the part, which has been the unfortunate occurrence after many similar operations. The management of the case was highly creditable to Mr. Kitson's acknowledged abilities.

Mr. Fox, in his "*Natural History and Treatment of Diseases of the Teeth*," gives the following narrative of a case of tic

douloureux successfully operated on by Sir Astley Cooper.

An elderly gentleman applied to Mr. Fox for the purpose of having some stumps extracted from the upper jaw, stating that he suffered considerable pain from them; without further enquiry, Mr. F. performed the operation. Two days afterwards he came to Mr. F. again, and expressed a wish that he would extract the teeth which were remaining on that side of the upper jaw. The teeth to which he directed his attention were two molares, both of which appeared to be perfectly sound. Mr. Fox then enquired what the particular kind of pain was: he described it as a pain which had come on at intervals, for nearly two or three months past; at first it was slight, but had gradually arisen to such a degree of acuteness as almost to

cause fainting: while he sat still, he was easy, but if he spoke quickly, or ate any thing which required mastication, or walked hastily, or was shaken by riding in a carriage, the pain returned, shooting through his cheek, and affecting his teeth and all the side of his face, as if he had received an electric shock. Mr. Fox had an opportunity of seeing him during two or three of these painful attacks. While he was relating the above statement, he was seized with so much pain, that he suddenly stopped, and the water streamed from his eyes. On comparing his descriptions, Mr. Fox immediately conceived that his complaint was caused by a disease of the suborbitar branch of the fifth pair of nerves, and offered to accompany him to Sir Astley Cooper, in order to take his opinion. As they proceeded in the coach, one sudden jolt caused another attack.

Sir A. Cooper, after having heard the above statement, concurred in the opinion Mr. Fox had given; but was more particularly confirmed in it, by producing another attack with only rubbing the hair of his beard contrary to its natural direction.

The gentleman assented to the operation, which Sir A. Cooper immediately performed. The nerve was completely divided, as the power of raising that side of the lip ceased, and it remained as in a state of paralysis. The wound healed in a few days; after which the pain entirely left him: he could eat with comfort, and take exercise without fear. His joy was so great at the deliverance which he had experienced from so much suffering, that he could not afterwards speak of it without shedding tears.—Again, however, we are ignorant of the final result of this appa-

rently successful operation—whether this happy freedom from pain continued one two, three, or more years!

The sixty-ninth number of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal contains a satisfactory case of neuralgia faciei cured by dividing the mandibulo labialis, where it enters the osseous canal. The history is given by Mr. Lizars, the operator, from which I shall give a brief account.

Mr. Lizars' patient was a man fifty-five years of age, and of a sound constitution: the pain began near the second molaris of the inferior maxillary bone, darting from thence to the ear, eye, and temple of the same side, accompanied with a violent convulsive action of the muscles of the face. Two of the molares had been extracted, in the idea that it was toothache; and narcotics, purgatives, blisters, and local

bleeding, were all tried without avail. The nerve was then divided by Mr. Lizars, as it emerges from the mental foramen, and a piece of it removed; and by this the man was relieved from all suffering FOR TWELVE MONTHS. His pains then suddenly returned as violent as ever; and the nerve, which was supposed to have reunited, was divided again at the former place, and the wound cauterized with the hot iron, but in vain. The inferior twig of the facial nerve, which communicates with the mental, was next divided, but with the same want of success. On the 25th of February, it was proposed, to the gentlemen who had before met Mr. Lizars in consultation, to cut, first, the inferior maxillary nerve as it enters the osseous canal; then, the facial at its exit from the stylo-mastoid foramen; and, thirdly, the infraorbitary, rather than suffer this poor wretch to endure such misery. On examining the mouth, great pain was given by touching the coronoid

process of the lower jaw-bone, as well as the gum all along the right side. The next day, the 26th, Mr. L. tried to divide the nerve, by introducing, from the inside of the mouth, a sharp-pointed curved bistoury along the inside of the coronoid process of the inferior maxillary bone, between it and the pterygoideus internus muscle to the foramen; then lateralizing the instrument outwards, and cutting towards him, with the expectation of hooking the nerve. In this he experienced considerable difficulty, from the superior maxilla, as it were, shutting up the space. The poor man felt at one time excessive pain, indicating the division of the nerve: he was easier during the afternoon, but passed nearly as bad a night as formerly. The following day, the 27th, the pain was confined to the seat of the extracted tooth: this, therefore, was cauterized. As the operation of yesterday had caused consider-

able tumefaction, so as to prevent an examination of the wound, Mr. L. put him on a course of the carbonate of iron, which he took for FOUR DAYS without benefit. On the 4th of March, Mr. Lizars prevailed on his patient to allow the application of the moxa; which was accordingly done, but he could scarcely suffer it: he was, however, a little relieved during the afternoon of the day the moxa was applied, but on the following his sufferings were as severe as ever. The tumefaction of the muscles in the neighbourhood of the wound last inflicted having now subsided, and the sore formed by the moxa healed, Mr. L. again attempted to divide the nerve as it enters the foramen; but in place of the bistoury, he made first a perpendicular incision with a scalpel close to the coronoid process, and then introduced a round-shaped gum-lancet between the process and the internal pterygoid muscle, and

scarified the bone at the foramen. When the lancet reached the seat of the nerve, the pain he experienced was intolerable, and it was with difficulty he could sit till the nerve was completely divided. From this moment there was a sudden and satisfactory termination to all his sufferings, similar to what had occurred after the first operation in December, 1819; and from this time he has continued well.—The patient, I must beg to remark, continued free from any recurrence of the disease for seven months after the division of the nerve; and I shall have great satisfaction in knowing that he still remains well, a most distressing relapse of neuralgia faciei being on record after the operation had been perperformed twenty-seven months: it must, however, be admitted that the operation in this latter case was done in a different, and in a much less satisfactory manner. I

must be permitted to express my fears of the permanent eradication of the disease by this ingenious operation of Mr. L.

I cannot be surprised at Mr. Lizars' want of due perseverance in the use of any internal remedy, after the failure of so many and such powerful medicines as the experience of united talents had judiciously suggested. The limited time allowed, and the excessive doses of the carbonate of iron employed, are more than sufficient obstacles to the successful use of that remedial agent. The period of FOUR days is wholly insufficient for the trial of any remedy that is intended to combat so violent a disease, and one of such long duration; and the doses employed were such as must materially add to the inordinate irritability of the nervous system generally, and more especially to the very distracted state of the facial nerves.

Dr. Corkindale, of Glasgow, in the fourth volume of the Edinburgh Medical Jourdal, gives a well-described case of tic douloureux cured by a combination of calomel and opium.* The analogy, the Doctor observes, between this disease and rheumatism, though very distant, served to sug-

* Dr. Leslie, of Pontesford in Shropshire, states that, during a residence of ten years in India and Persia, he had many opportunities of seeing this disease in its worst state, it being very prevalent among the natives of those countries. In such cases he always prescribed calomel and opium, (two grains of the former and half a grain of the latter, three times a day, in the form of a pill,) generally with success. After the mouth became slightly affected, he seldom observed the disease to continue: but in most cases relief was obtained before six doses were taken. The Doctor adds, that since he has resided in this country, he has had recourse to the same practice in several cases with similar results. He notices one case that had resisted other remedies, which he effectually cured by this treatment. Mercury with and without opium has had a very fair trial in this country; and when it has affected the mouth, the sufferings of the patients have been uniformly aggravated,—a consequence which, I suspect, the addition of opium will not prevent.

gest this remedy. He had read of a similar case cured by mercury, and though that was imagined to arise from syphilis, he did not much value the opinion; for syphilis, he remarks, is often said to be the cause of diseases, to the production of which it does not contribute. The coincidence of syphilis and tic douloureux in the same person is not sufficient reason for regarding one as the effect of the other, unless that coincidence is frequently observed. The success of mercury in this instance, therefore, inspired hopes of its utility in this particular case, though there was in him no ground to suspect a syphilitic taint. From the exhibition of the proposed medicine, too, the patient might derive the benefit of an anodyne, an object devoutly to be wished for in his present condition. Twelve pills were therefore ordered, each containing two grains of calomel and two of opium; and the patient was directed to

take two every day. One was taken at nine o'clock in the evening, the other at midnight, that their anodyne effect might coincide with the natural disposition to repose. The first night was passed with a greater degree of tranquillity, and with more sleep than the patient had enjoyed for some weeks past. The attacks were less frequent, and comparatively feeble. The patient, to use his own language, had them now under his own control; for he could put a stop to them by pressure under his eye.* Seven pills were taken in this way with a gradual amelioration, and on the fifth day there came on a profuse salivary discharge. The patient now ceased to complain of his former attacks. The salivation seemed to proceed entirely from the side originally diseased; and the tongue, on that side only, with the corresponding

* On the fourth evening, only one pill was taken.

parietes of the mouth, were ulcerated. This mercurial affection continued for a fortnight, moderated, however, occasionally by a gentle laxative and a simple anodyne. The patient continued entirely free from attacks of the tic douloureux for nearly six months after the drawing up of the case. He followed his usual occupations, without any interruption from the unusual severity of the weather, during Winter and Spring. He feels the parts originally affected somewhat benumbed, and prickling, as if from a compressed nerve. This sensation has, however, become less distinct: he suffers no pain; and his general health, which was much impaired by the violence of the disease, has been for some time completely restored.

The judicious and successful mode of treating the above case reflects the greatest credit on Dr. Corkindale's practical know-

ledge. It has, however, unfortunately occurred in my practice, and in that, I fear, of a multitude of others, that mercury alone, — that mercury combined with opium, — and that opium alone, and administered in combination with other powerful remedial agents, have all, in different instances, failed to produce any thing but a temporary mitigation of suffering.

The ingenious Mr. Hill, of Chester, an able advocate for the curative powers of arsenic, when writing on the subject of tic douloureux, remarks, that these affections of the head and face are well known for the inveteracy of suffering inflicted on the unhappy subject, and their too frequent unyielding obstinacy of persistence, notwithstanding the most powerful means have been perseveringly instituted.

It will not be overlooked that it is an object of the highest importance, in all these

distressing situations, to endeavour to ascertain any cause that may exist in some distant part, as the origin of the painful symptoms, and to adopt every feasible method for its removal: but when this is apparently done, complete success is not found universally to follow; for the primary cause of the original evil may be removed, and still, from new circumstances, habit, &c. the effects remain to keep up extensive pain and mischief. Debility never fails, says Mr. Hill, to accompany this situation, constituting the precise circumstances in which arsenical remedies have proved salutary. In cases where great debility does not forbid it, arsenic will undoubtedly produce a speedier and more permanent effect, when preceded by a dry emetic, exhibited after the manner of the eccentric Marryatt.

Mr. M'Kechnie gives the history of a case of tic douloureux, attended with the

usual symptoms, which he in the first instance opposed by perpetual blistering, purging with calomel and jalap, a course of pills composed of the conium maculatum, and the muriate of mercury; and a camphorated mercurial ointment was rubbed on the jaw. Salivation was produced, and kept up about eight weeks, without effecting any amelioration of the patient's condition. The pains, however, gradually decreased after the mercury was given over, and at last ceased altogether; and he continued nearly well for the space of a year and a half, when he again became exceedingly afflicted. Local bleeding, blistering, ether, opium, &c. &c. produced some temporary mitigation of symptoms. M'K. considered the division of the nerves as a hopeless experiment, and as many of the most active remedies had been employed without any permanent advantage, he thought himself justified in making a trial

of the powers of arsenic, which had been recommended in this complaint by high authority. He therefore prescribed the following mixture:

℞. Liquoris arsenici,
Aq. puræ, āā ℥i.

Of this the patient was desired to take fifteen drops in a basin of gruel, three times a day, and to add one drop every day until sensible signs of its operation should be observed. For a few days there was no alleviation; but as the dose was increased, the paroxysms became less frequent, and more tolerable.

The medicine producing some unpleasant effects upon the stomach, was omitted for a few days, and its use was then resumed in small doses. It was continued a fortnight longer, without a return of the original complaint, or of suffering from the remedy.

This is a satisfactory case, proving the degree of control which arsenic possesses over some instances of a severe and obstinate disease.

Many more cases are on record, testifying the utility of this powerful mineral, when judiciously and cautiously administered. *

The curative capabilities of the conium maculatum, of stramonium, of opium, of the different preparations of copper, of lead, and of silver, of the belladonna, of electricity, magnetism, the actual cautery, of the external applications of lyttæ, the tartrite of antimony, and of tar, have been appreciated with sufficient accuracy and

* Since the publication of my first edition, I have had extensive opportunities of giving arsenical preparations in the treatment of this disease: my experience has taught me to appreciate its powers at a very low rate.

discrimination, by many distinguished members of our profession. It is needless to repeat the general inefficiency of each: in some few instances a little good has been produced; in a still more scanty number of cases an apparent cure has been affected; and in an unfortunately large majority of suffering patients, not the least relief has been afforded.

" Quod ad curationem attinet, quæcunque corpus exinaniunt, aut supervacua fuerunt, aut perniciosa, nulla autem magis quàm sanguinis missio. Cataplasmata molesta sunt, et ægrotantium calamitatem potius augent. Cortex Peruvianus sæpe fallit, pariter ac radix valerianæ sylvestris, gummi fœtida, myrrha, moschus, camphora, opium, succus cicutæ, pulveres sternutamenta moventes, emplastra cantharidis, ulcera alté inusta, electrificatio, fomenta ex cicutâ, lavatio pedum tepida,

æther faciei illitus, vel spiritus vini, linimentum saponis cum vel sine tincturâ opii, oleum succini, arteria temporis incisa, dentesque refixi: neque plus profuit superveniens podagra. Attamen cortex cinchonæ interdum auxilio fuit, neque tam rarò, quin primus locus, huic medicamento jure tribuendus est: hujus unciam quotidie sumere oportet in dies septem. Emplastra quæ erodunt sub auribus imposita interdum doloris impetum mitigarunt: neque tantùm succi cicutæ, quantum sine vertigine sumi possit, non aliquando prosperum exitium habuit. In quibusdam ægris, ubi nihil aliud auxilio fuit, quarta pars grani antimonii tartarisati, cum tincturæ opii guttis quadraginta sex noctes sumta morbum prorsus fugavit. Fuit quoque ubi lavatio frigida non pœnitendam opem attulerit." — Vide "Heberdeni Commentarii," pag. 88.

I shall conclude this part of my essay, by introducing a letter addressed to me by the ingenious Sir Anthony Carlisle, Professor of Anatomy to the Royal Academy, the perusal of which cannot but interest my readers,—and a short communication from an eminent physician.

" 3. Langham Place, Cavendish Square,
Jan. 25. 1822.

" My Dear Sir,

" The disorders of the sensorial organs have always perplexed me; and after several years of practical observation and laborious thought, I am far from any satisfactory conclusion, as to the immediate cause of neuralgia and other analogous affections; and I feel an equal difficulty about their remedial treatment. Perhaps the best mode of proceeding is to bring together all the leading evidences, both positive and negative, and from them to seek some general induction. For instance,

I never saw a person before the age of puberty afflicted with neuralgia; but I have had patients with it above the age of eighty. The disease equally attaches to both sexes. Now tetanus occurs at all ages, but not equally to both sexes; for I have seen thirty men with tetanus to one woman. Whether the diseases in question are purely affections of the cerebral elongations which form the nerves, or whether they are affections of the cerebral mass from whence they originate, or partake of both, is quite uncertain. An able surgeon, Mr. Standert of Taunton, formerly my pupil, thinks it probable that the osseous foramina through which the nerves pass that are most commonly subject to neuralgia, may be a compressing cause, either by occasional dilatation of their concurrent blood-vessels, or by an ossific diminution of their apertures; but it seems that the nerves which pass through such

openings are not the only nerves liable to the disease. I have not used steel so freely as you recommend, but have noticed a general connection between the states of the stomach and paroxysms of neuralgia. In some cases, where constipation was habitual, the patients were relieved by frequent cathartics; in others, where plethora was a leading feature, copious and repeated bleedings did good. The temporary relief from local reduction of temperature, or from other topical applications, seems merely palliative; and I do not know of any drug which can be said to cure nervous diseases. Electricity promised much; but its efficacy is hitherto uncertain. As the nerves are equally conductors of impressions toward the brain, and the carriers of sensorial influences, whether they be of volition or the power which aids secretion, digestion, and the involuntary actions of muscles, it is obvious that they admit of conveyance

in two opposite directions; and many facts show their incapacity to transmit these opposite influences simultaneously: indeed the thing is a physical imposibility. Some advantage may therefore be expected from our artificial occupation of the sensorium, or the sentient extremities of the nerves, by way of diverting diseased sensations. These notions are, however, too widely extended for a short statement; and I must remain a well wisher to your very interesting undertaking, and am, "Dear Sir,

"Your obliged Servant,

"ANTHONY CARLISLE.

"B. Hutchinson, Esq."

Dr. Edward Ash, of Foley Place, London, has furnished me with the following remarks on this disease.

"There is a probability that tic douloureux may be an aggregate of symptoms,

which may arise from various causes; or, at least, that different local affections produce diseases very closely resembling it. In some patients the symptoms appear to be connected with a change in the brain alone, or with an affection purely nervous; while in others, a morbid state of the liver and stomach, a disease of the coats of the affected nerves allied to rheumatic inflammation, or local irritation and pressure on the nerve in part of its course, seem closely combined with the pain, to which we have given the name of tic douloureux; and hence various modes of treatment may be occasionally palliative. In two cases which I have seen, a respite of several months was gained by low diet, active purging, and frequent cupping on the face; but the disease, in both, showed itself again. In others, measures of depletion seemed rather to be prejudicial than useful. In

others, the belladonna, stramonium, conium in very large doses, arsenic, the tartar emetic ointment, nitrate of silver, bark, calomel and opium, evidently showed some power over different forms of the disease, but without effecting a cure."

"*Quod fieri* FERRO, *liquidove potest Electro.*"

I NOW proceed to the more gratifying part of my little pamphlet, in which I am enabled to lay before my medical brethren a more successful mode of treating the disease in question than any which, in the course of my reading or practice, has hitherto been adopted.

The failure of the remedies usually employed in our endeavours to subdue the torments of the tic douloureux, induced me to enquire into the effects of the different preparations of iron; and my investigations were attended with happy results.

It is well known, says Mr. Thompson, (and in this opinion he coincides with Dr. Duncan,

jun.) that iron is of all the metals the least injurious to the animal system, and cannot in any respect be ranked as a poison. It was medicinally used by the ancients. The effects of iron, however, as an internal remedy, were very little known till more modern times. It acts as a powerful tonic, increasing the general excitement, promoting the digestive powers and healthy secretions, giving a more florid hue to the blood, and augmenting in a great degree the energy of the muscular fibres; and when given with judgment and discrimination, few medicines are more capable of producing beneficial effects.

The preparation of this mineral which I prefer, after a fair trial of all its forms, is the Ferri carbonas of the London Pharmacopœia. It is prepared by mixing, in certain proportions, solutions of the sulphate of iron and of the carbonate of soda toge-

ther, when an immediate mutual decomposition takes place: sulphate of soda is formed, which remains in solution, and carbonate of iron, which is precipitated of a green colour. The precipitate, when first formed, is the carbonate of the black oxide of iron, or contains the iron in the state of black oxide, the state in which it exists in the green sulphate of iron; but in the process of drying, it absorbs more oxygen, becomes of a red colour, and is converted into the carbonate of red oxide of iron. *

This is the preparation of iron which, though in general use, has been hitherto

* Mr. Phillips has shown that this precipitate is liable to vary, according to the temperature at which it is prepared, as well as from other differences of manipulation: my own experience has fully confirmed this observation of Mr. Phillips. Dr. Paris, in his valuable Pharmacologia, remarks that this precipitate consists of mixtures of peroxide, protoxide, and subcarbonate of protoxide of iron, in various proportions.

very inefficiently administered; in doses so minute as to preclude a possibility of much good effect being produced. I mean not to confine this observation to the management of the tic douloureux, but to extend it to every case in which it is imagined that iron is to be useful. In proper and efficient doses I hope to be able to demonstrate its valuable and highly curative powers.

The following cases may, I trust, be some source of comfort to those who are afflicted with this disease; and will be an evidence, I flatter myself, sufficiently convincing, of the existence of a very considerable palliative, if not of a perfect cure, for the generality of cases of one of the most painful maladies to which human nature is subject.

CASE I.

The first case I shall lay before my readers in the words of the very intelligent and well-informed patient herself, whose obstinate complaint was situate in the nerves over the os malæ, just below the orbit: the gums, teeth, upper lip, and ala nasi: it proceeded, therefore, from the second branch of the fifth pair of nerves, the superior maxillary nerve.

Remedies usually resorted to on these occasions had been judiciously, but unsuccessfully, administered. The benefit resulting from the use of the carbonate of iron will be fully demonstrated by the complete cure of this case.

" Aldercar Park, July 20. 1814.

" Sir,

" Permit me to offer you my acknowledgments for your kind enquiries after

my health: in reply to which I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that I am almost entirely free from the dreadful disorder in my face, which for many years embittered my life. I was, when first attacked by it, in my twenty-seventh year; and for the next twenty years and upwards had very little respite from its tortures. Moved by what you heard and witnessed of my sufferings, you had the goodness to prescribe for me.* I followed exactly your advice, and from that time my pains disappeared; and I have of late years only the most trifling remains of them, and these are so instantaneous, that they raise in me no alarm. I continue to take a course of the powder you recommended every month, and intend to persevere in this practice.

"I am, Sir, &c. &c.

"JANE SMITH."

* ℞. Ferri carbonatis ʒi. fiat pulvis bis die sumendus ex melle, vel theriacâ.

" Aldercar Park, Nov. 8. 1819.

" SIR,

" I think it a duty, which I perform with unfeigned satisfaction, to acquaint you, that since my last communication on the subject of tic douloureux, I have been entirely exempt from that excruciating complaint. I, however, persisted in the use of your prescription, at the intervals I then mentioned, till the beginning of last year; when, experiencing no recurrence of pain, I ventured to leave it off totally, and remain perfectly free from any symptom of the disorder.

" I am, Sir, &c. &c.

" JANE SMITH."

" Aldercar Park, Dec. 8. 1819.

" DEAR SIR,

" If the foregoing statements can contribute to your purpose, I shall be sincerely happy. When I began to be

afflicted with the tic douloureux, I have mentioned — as to the progress of the disease, I know not how to speak of it, for it was, from the first to the last, an extreme of pain that mocks description; in short, it was the complete tic douloureux, from the beginning—it was the right side of my head and face only that was affected: the other side had neither pain nor soreness. When the spasms came on, which they did a hundred times a day, they were like lightning for suddenness; and when they individually ceased, it was as suddenly and as completely as if they had never been. My health was in every respect good, excepting those consequences of the horrid disorder that arose from its preventing me eating due sustenance (and even speaking), and taking rest. I suppose every person who is so wretched as to be visited with this scourge has had similar feelings to mine; but I am

quite incapable of giving that history of my sufferings which, I am persuaded, the importance of the subject requires. This and my former letters will, however, at least point out from what means much benefit, most probably a cure, might be obtained, by those labouring under the dire disease in question.

"I am, dear Sir, &c. &c.

"JANE SMITH."

CASE II.

I shall now give the history of the case of Henry Jervis, Esq., of Cheswardine, Shropshire, in his own words, convinced that any change in the language cannot add to its value.

" Cheswardine, Dec. 10. 1819.

" DEAR SIR,

" As you request a full historical account of my disease, I will commence with it ab initio; but I am fearful that it will require the pen of a professional man, or a more able writer than myself, to make it intelligible without the aid of technical phrases, in which I feel myself quite deficient.

" On the 27th of October, 1812, in preparing to attend the North Shropshire regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, I found my eyes gummed up more than usual, which I attributed to a slight cold, and splashed my left eye rather sharply with cold water; the effect was a smart and sudden shock in my head; but not expecting another, I repeated it again, which produced a concussion ten times more violent than the former, above the orbit of the left eye,

which extended over the temple and left side of the head quite up to the crown, with a most excruciating sensation. This paroxysm did not continue more than a minute or two; and at that time, supposing it to be an attack of the gout, I hurried down stairs, and dispatched one messenger to the regiment and another to Dr. Northern, who was kind enough to attend immediately. Soon after his arrival another paroxysm occurred, when he recommended an application of laudanum, until a decoction of poppy-heads could be prepared; and supposing the attack to be a good deal allied to gout, he prescribed accordingly. But the complaint continued at intervals until March, 1813; during which time I occasionally applied bolsters of lint, moistened with laudanum and ether, leeches, and a plaster of opium and hemlock spread on common sticking-plaster: from all of which I never received

more than a very short and temporary relief. In March, 1813, Dr. Northern perceiving some symptoms of gout in my feet, imagined there might be a strong analogy between the two disorders; and thought if, by trying the Buxton water, I could fix the gout in my feet, my head might be relieved. I followed his advice; and when I arrived there, the largest cloth-shoe I had would not contain my foot; but after drinking the water for two days, which operated as a powerful diuretic, instead of gout being increased, the swelling and inflammation were so much reduced, that in a few days I could not only ride, but walk tolerably well, and my head continued more at ease for some time. *

* On Mr. Jervis's return from Buxton, he consulted me respecting the tic douloureux, when I immediately recommended a course of the carbonate of iron; in the use of which he persevered for some months with the greatest advantage, in doses of ℈i twice a day.—B. H.

"In May, 1814, I had occasion to take a journey to London, and failed not to provide myself with the carbonate of iron, with the help of which I passed my time very comfortably, and continued nearly in the same state, with occasional remembrances. During my stay in town, I furnished myself with a good supply of the carbonate.

"It is not, I should conceive, possible for any one who has not had some personal experience of this malady, to form the least idea of the different effects it produces; some of which I will endeavour to enumerate. It sometimes commences with a slight corruscation or ticking, somewhat similar to that of a pendulum, whence it may probably derive its name, being a disease more known in France than in England. It is afterwards succeeded by a shock more violent than that of an elec-

trical machine, but of much longer duration. A red-hot salamander laid upon the head, may afford some resemblance of the effect it sometimes produces. At other times, it may convey some idea of the operation of an incision-knife, or tomahawk, the lancets of a cupping instrument being nothing compared to it. Sometimes you may imagine minute-guns passing through the head for a considerable length of time. The patient may at others suppose his head to be laid open with a battle-axe, and the brain exposed to a dreadful north-eastern blast.

"The first mouthful of meat or drink at breakfast or dinner, often produces some one or other of the above sensations.

"After all, the most extraordinary trait in the character of this disorder is, that after its most violent attacks, the storm subsides

as suddenly as it commenced, without leaving a trace behind. I remain, &c. &c.

"HENRY JERVIS."

The case of Mr. Jervis is a decided confirmation of the powers of the carbonate of iron over the tortures of the tic douloureux. He had tried in vain all the known attempted remedies, without experiencing any thing but the most temporary relief. From the use of this preparation of iron, he enjoyed a long cessation from his pains; and should they at any time unfortunately return, from the influence of cold, or from any other exciting cause, he will have recourse to his remedy, in the full confidence of its efficacy.

CASE III.

Mrs. Sarah Rayner, of Southwell, aged fifty-seven, of a spare habit of body,

after having borne many children, began to complain of rheumatic pains in the right side of her face, which she attributed to carious teeth, eight or ten of which were extracted without affording the expected relief. The pains were confined in the first instance to the os malæ, the upper lip, and the tongue; the eye on that side occasionally shedding a tear from the agony of her suffering; and the upper edge of the temporal muscle suffering repeated contortions. Slightly touching the skin, masticating, or speaking, would immediately excite the pain, which continuing perhaps half a minute, would suddenly vanish, and leave the patient perfectly well. The complaint was wholly unattended with fever. Having no doubt as to the precise nature of the disease, I commenced my means of cure by a course of calomel, opium, and the conium maculatum, in pills containing one grain of each of the two former ingredients

and four of the latter. Of these, I directed three to be given every twenty-four hours, at equally divided periods. After the first day, the number of painful paroxysms was sensibly diminished, and their intensity considerably lessened. She persevered in this plan for fifteen days, when a profuse ptyalism coming on, the pills were omitted. I was much pleased that her pains gradually abated; and, at the conclusion of the salivation, which was very troublesome, the disease appeared to have been altogether subdued.

In this pleasing change of health, the patient continued for seven or eight months; when, on the sudden accession of acute hepatitis, to the violence of which her life was nearly falling a sacrifice, the excruciating tortures in her face returned with almost redoubled force, added to the accumulated misery of the ala nasi of the other side

showing symptoms of a sympathetic affection. I had again recourse to the calomel, opium, and conium, the effects of which promised to be equal to what we had experienced on the first attack, there being a sensible abatement of pain: salivation again ensued, not, however, accompanied with that happy emancipation from torture which had before attended it.

Disappointed in the effects of this plan, as soon as the state of her mouth and of her general constitution would admit of the remedy, I began a course of the arsenical solution, by giving ten drops three times a day in a teacupful of gruel, increasing the dose one drop every day at each dose. I was wholly disappointed in the efficacy of this powerful agent, as it did not appear to possess any authority over the disease, even when exhibited in doses of twenty-five

drops three times a day: the tortures of my suffering patient were undiminished.

In this unpleasant state of things, I had recourse to the ferri carbonas, half a drachm of which I began to administer three times a day, mixed in honey. During the first seven days, but little benefit was perceptible. I then increased the dose to one drachm twice a day; and after the first three days of this increased quantity, a very sensible abatement of the number and violence of the paroxysms was to be discerned. I now increased the dose of the carbonate to four scruples twice a day, in which she regularly persevered for ten weeks; at the expiration of which time she was wholly free from the slightest vestige of this disease, and never afterwards experienced the most trivial return.

For some time afterwards, Mrs. R. made a point of taking what she used to call a fortnight's course of her brown powder, twice a year, to which she attributed her freedom from any assaults of her old enemy.

CASE IV.

Mr. Samuel Hage, of Upton, aged fifty-eight, of temperate habits, of a delicate lax fibre, and of a nervous temperament, after suffering acute rheumatism, complained of agonizing electric shocks (as he used to express his sensations) extending from the inner canthus of the right eye, and from the globe of the eye down the os malæ to the upper lip, the ala nasi, the teeth and gums: he suffered also an effusion of scalding tears, which excoriated his

cheek. The seat of this patient's disease appeared to be in the superior maxillary nerve, and that branch of the ophthalmic which goes to the lachrymal gland: these excruciating tortures, with the exception of the intermissions usually accompanying neuralgia faciei, continued with unabated violence for two months, under the exhibition of judicious, but unfortunately inefficacious means of relief.

He was so convinced that the complaint originated in carious teeth, as to be induced, contrary to my wishes and advice, to have two sound molares extracted, and he imagined with some temporary alleviation of his pains. The contrary, however, I have generally observed to be the effect of this operation—an increased degree of torment, added to the vexation of losing so useful a part of our economy. The tic douloureux may at all times be easily dis-

tinguished from odontalgia, and indeed from every other complaint to which the human frame is subject: it is most truly a disease sui generis.

In this unhappy state of the complaint, I began to try the effects of the ferri carbonas in doses of one drachm twice a day: this plan was persevered in for sixteen days, without much alleviation. I then augmented the dose of the carbonate to four scruples twice a day. This increased dose produced a check upon the violence of the disease: after having used it for five days, the pains, twitchings, and contortions began sensibly to abate in duration and in violence, and in the course of a fortnight were apparently removed.

Mr. H. continued in this state of tranquillity during the space of three weeks,

when, in consequence, as he imagined, of receiving a severe blow on his head from an unmanageable horse, he suffered a return of all the former distressing symptoms. He was put on a second course of the carbonate of iron, in which he persevered for one month, at the expiration of which he was wholly free from pain, and continued so during the remainder of his life.

CASE V.

The next case which I shall detail to my readers, is that of Mrs. Brown, of Mansfield, the history of whose distressing malady I will preface with the following letter, which I have just had the satisfaction of receiving from that lady.

Mansfield, 10th Feb. 1820.

"Dear Sir,

"In requesting that I would try to call to my recollection the symptoms of that dreadful disease, the tic douloureux, you have not imposed upon me a very difficult task; for, were I to live to the greatest age, the remembrance of my sufferings at that period would never escape me; they were indeed so great, that I thought I would gladly exchange them for any worldly calamity, however great: indeed I imagined that I should consider nothing an evil that could befal me, were I only relieved from that dreadful malady. — You must recollect, my dear Sir, that I experienced not the slightest relief from any external application; but that some medicine (I know not what) which you were so kind as to think of for me, wholly removed the complaint, which may well be styled the rheumatism of the nerves; for I am con-

vinced that mine was nervous, and was brought on by variously agitated feelings of mind. — The pain came on in a moment, and seemed to proceed from a small cold place, about the size of a shilling, sometimes immediately over my left eye, at others below it; sometimes at the side of my nose, at others extending over my upper lip: it would then proceed and disperse about among (to my ideas) many small nerves, I could fancy the size of a thin wire, to my gums and teeth, where the agony would cause so much inflammation, that in a few minutes my face would become purple, and my gums exceedingly swelled and inflamed. I have been three months at a time without taking nourishment but by a tea-spoon, conveying a small quantity of mashed potatoe, or milk and bread; and even in taking this I was obliged to use the greatest care, for the slightest movement of my mouth would

frequently bring on the pain. It generally visited me three or four times a day, and never failed its visitation when I had been in bed but a very short time. I do assure you that I had only two good nights from October to the May following. I used to get up in the middle of the night, and fill my mouth with cold water, or lay my cheek on a plaster floor, or rub my gums with ether or spirit of wine, and hold some in my mouth; but nothing that I applied had the effect of removing it. Warm applications were equally ineffectual; the complaint appeared to resist every means which were opposed to it. I well know that very many similar cases have fallen under your care and observation, you will not, therefore, accuse me of any exaggeration in my descriptions: indeed I think it wholly impossible to give an idea of the agony which it causes: my descriptive powers must fail, and cannot do the least justice to

it.—My only and most ardent prayer is, that all who may be afflicted with a similar calamity may be fortunate enough to have it so effectually and so permanently removed, as has been the case with myself. — Believe me, my dear Sir, &c. &c.

"JANE BROWN."

My worthy patient, whose letter I have above given, was about one or two and twenty years of age when suffering under the tic douloureux, of a plethoric habit, and of a tense muscular fibre. — The disease was ushered in by symptoms of active inflammation in the adjacent parts, great pulsation of the arteries in the neighbourhood of the afflicted nerves, and considerable febrile irritation. Local and general bleeding, and the usual antiphlogistic modes of treatment, after some considerable length of time, subdued the violence of inflammatory excitement, without, how-

ever, mitigating, in any material degree, the excess of her suffering.

The portio dura of the seventh pair of nerves, spreading its branches to most parts of the face, and communicating with several of those of the fifth pair, distributed to the lower jaw, the mastoid process, and the ear, being here affected, conspired to afflict my patient. She first experienced those peculiar and inexplicable sensations, which usually precede an approaching paroxysm: the pains would then assume their most acute and lancinating character, darting and shooting along the course of the affected nerves: the periods of their duration varied considerably. The pain did not always confine itself to the seat of the disease, but, as I have before observed, it darted with the velocity of lightning to the neighbouring parts, in various directions.

Having subdued the highly inflamed state of the parts, I began my assault on this inveterate enemy to the peace of the patient, by the ferri carbonas, in doses of half a drachm twice a day, in which she persevered for the space of three weeks without any considerable abatement of her sufferings. She then became rather weary of taking the medicine. I next tried the efficacy of calomel, and the extract. conii, in large doses of the latter ingredient. In this plan I persevered for a fortnight, without producing the slightest impression on the disease: the exhibition of the arsenical solution in tolerably bold doses was equally unavailing: the sulphate of zinc, the nitrate of silver, the extract of henbane in large doses, shared the same unfortunate results. — In this state of depression, I prevailed upon the patient to have recourse again to the ferri car-

bonas; and with a determination to try its power in its fullest dose, I began by giving four scruples twice a day. On the fifth day after its commencement, a very perceptible change in the disease was evident: the paroxysms were less frequent, and somewhat less severe. A regular perseverance in similar doses during the ensuing month rewarded the patient with a gradual extinction of her malady, and I am happy to add, that she has never experienced the slightest return of it.

CASE VI.

Mr. James Key, senior, of Maplebeck, sixty-three years of age, of sedentary and temperate habits, and of a delicate, lax fibre, was suddenly seized with an apoplectic

attack, producing a partial privation of the external and internal senses, and, for a time, a total abolition of the whole of the voluntary motions.

After a moderate use of bleeding, purging, and blistering, the apoplectic symptoms began to subside, and to leave their usual sequela, — a hemiplegia of the left side, accompanied with excessive pain in the muscles of the arm and leg of the side affected, the violence of which continued unabated for three weeks, and was apparently at length relieved by rubbing on their surface an ointment containing a proportion of the tartrite of antimony, twice a day, until a copious crop of a pustular eruption completely covered the affected arm and leg: after which, the voluntary power over the limbs was gradually and partially restored.

A few weeks after the removal of this pain, he began to complain of a pulsating, painful sensation in his upper lip, extending to the left ala nasi: he used to compare the feel to the clicking of the pendulum of a clock, and every click (to use his own expression) conveyed to him the sensation of a lancet, or the sharp point of a knife, penetrating his lip and nose. The pain would sometimes remove to the orbit, and the inner canthus of the eye, and to the left temple. His eye was at times inflamed and watery, and during mastication the attacks were so severe as to render the necessary returns of taking food most irksome to him: the paroxysms were very frequent during the day, and his nights would probably have been equally bad, had he not in some measure mitigated the severity of his agonies by the aid of large doses of opium and the extract of henbane. His pitiable tones after each attack strongly

denoted the acuteness of his sufferings, and the intermissions seldom exceeded two hours. In this doleful state, he applied to an empiric practising at a market-town in this neighbourhood, whose plan of treatment consisted in giving purgatives of the most drastic nature, without producing the least desired effect: — blisters were also applied in succession to the affected cheek, and on the failure of these, a seton was inserted longitudinally, and its due and proper action was supported for two months without the least benefit. This active empiric had recourse also to the metallic tractors, and to electricity.

On his return to my care, I immediately began the use of the carbonate of iron, in doses of one drachm twice a day; and having healed the seton as quickly as possible, I directed an ointment, consisting of the tartrite of antimony, powdered opium, and

the strong mercurial ointment, to be rubbed in small quantities on the affected cheek twice a day. In the course of ten days a very manifest amendment of symptoms exhilarated the patient; the paroxyms were less frequent and less violent; and in this state of amendment he continued for three weeks, at which time I increased the dose of the carbonate to four scruples twice a day: this was persevered in for five weeks longer, when his torments were wholly removed, after which he continued to take the iron for three weeks. — He never experienced the slightest return of the tic douloureux.

CASE VII.

The following is the case of a gentleman, the initials only of whose name I have the permission of mentioning thus publicly: to my private friends his name and rank are

well known; and I have his authority to state them on any application which may be made to me. For the history of the case I am indebted to an eminent physician in London.

" Sir R. I. A. K., Bart., last year high sheriff of the county of Monmouth, aged about forty-six years, experienced his first attack of tic douloureux about four years ago. He was at that time in London, and suffered four or five paroxysms in the course of every day, generally on washing his face, and whenever he ate or drank. — He had long been subject to dyspeptic symptoms; his constitution is leucophlegmatic; and his pulse generally small and languid. Previous to the attack of tic douloureux, he had been subject to very distressing and obstinate chronic inflammatory affections of the membrane lining the trachea.

" To relieve his painful and truly dreadful attacks of tic douloureux, he has tried a great variety of remedies, and the different modes of treatment recommended by all the writers on this afflicting malady. From Mr. Abernethy's judicious system, he certainly derived at one time essential benefit. The solution of arsenic afforded some temporary and trifling relief. The anodyne vegetable extracts have had a long and patient trial, particularly the deadly nightshade, hemlock, and henbane, without producing much abatement of torment. When at the sea-side he has been entirely free from the complaint.

" At the time he began the use of the carbonate of iron in the doses recommended in your pamphlet, he was suffering in the most excruciating manner, from very frequent paroxysms of the disease: after the second day of its use, he was considerably better; and in ten days, he

was not only entirely free from the disease, but in a greatly improved state of health: he has lately experienced very slights attacks, or rather (to use his own words) such shooting sensations as to induce him to imagine, that were he to commit any irregularities in his manner of living, he might experience some relapse. When the premonitory symptoms occur, he has recourse to the carbonate of iron, which satisfactorily and speedily removes them. He is now perfectly well."

The same distinguished physician, in a subsequent letter, dated May 30th, says, "Sir R. I. A. K. has continued free from every symptom of the disease ever since he left off the carbonate of iron. He is fully satisfied that he is indebted solely to the use of the iron, in the doses recommended by you for the present improved state of his health, and for the total absence of the disease."

CASE VIII.

The following excellent letter addressed to me by Mr. Richmond, an ingenious surgeon, practising at Grimsby, in Lincolnshire, requires no apology for its insertion.

" Grimsby, Nov. 9. 1820.

" Sir,

" Occupied as, I trust, we are in the philanthropic cause of disseminating good, and in the pursuit of means whereby we may remove or alleviate the sufferings of our fellow-creatures, and especially in directing our attention to those diseases which art has hitherto been inadequate to remedy, the subject becomes too important to need any apology in requesting the communications of others, however humble, to add to the stock of our experience.

" Medical science would be essentially promoted, if such communications were more frequent and general, to the exclusion of that jealous and envious spirit which too commonly prevails. And permit me here, Sir, to compliment you on the liberal and candid manner in which you have laid before the public a discovery, which, in some hands, might have been made the basis of empiricism.

" Impressed with these sentiments, I was much interested in the perusal of your pamphlet, and in an opportunity of putting your remedial agency to an immediate test: but still more interesting to me is the favourable result of that trial, and the opportunity afforded me of the subsequent brief narration.

" Mrs. Vicars, of Marsh Chappel, about thirty years of age, of delicate fibre and

thin habit, applied to me about a year ago with a severe and acute pain along that branch of the fifth pair of nerves passing to the maxilla inferior, and particularly assailing the mental nerve: this pain she describes as coming on at intervals, and with that degree of severity as to amount to little less than distraction, and to produce very great mental inquietude and apprehension. Upon investigation, she informed me, that about eleven years ago she received a stroke from a cow on the same side of the lower jaw to which she referred the pain, and that a consequent exfoliation took place soon afterwards. From this period she was quite free from pain, until about four years ago, when her affliction came on, and all the symptoms denoted the most marked and tormenting case of tic douloureux.

" Being fully aware of the general inefficiency of dividing the nerve, I never at-

tempted or proposed it; but, in conformity with the advice of Mr. Abernethy, I endeavoured to soothe constitutional irritation by promoting healthy secretion from the organs connected with digestion. I also applied leeches and blisters, a treatment which evidently produced a certain degree of alleviation for a short period. Mr. Lowe having been so kind as to send me your interesting pamphlet, I again visited my patient, and found her agonies in all their former violence. I requested permission to send her the carbonate of iron, which she granted, when I gave one drachm three times a day conformably to your direction, and upon finishing two dozen powders, she expressed very great amendment, but exclaimed that I had been salivating her; indeed, the iron, according to her account, had produced considerable ptyalism.* This

* This effect of the iron I have frequently witnessed, especially on a lady who had used it for the relief of an obstinate clavus hystericus. B. H.

being some days after finishing her powders, it had subsided, and not having seen her, I was unable to form any judgment of its extent. I pressed her not to regard the trifling inconvenience of a sore mouth, but to persevere in the use of the powders, which she assurred me she would gladly do, as her excruciating torments had been so very much relieved. She further expressed great comfort in the improvement of her tongue and mouth, which were foul and unpleasant before taking the iron, and though it occasioned some weight and uneasiness in the stomach, yet her appetite and bodily strength had wonderfully increased. She has regularly continued the medicine until last week, when her complaint was entirely removed, since which time she only takes it occasionally. I saw the lady's husband yesterday, when he gratified me with an assurance of the perfect restoration of her health.

"When theory is not founded on the certain basis of manifest, demonstrable cause and effect, dangerous positions leading to erroneous conclusions are too generally assumed, and has, in medical science especially, caused the production of system after system, which have become the successive objects of contradiction and refutation. As reasoners and observers, therefore, we ought to be careful not to apply speculative and fanciful causes to uncertain effects, but by careful and steady induction from sure principles to endeavour to arrive at truth and certainty. In attempting to account for the modus operandi of the carbonate of iron in this terrific disease, I may, I trust, be permitted to draw a faint resemblance to a theory many admire and many condemn; I allude to the production of local disease from disordered digestion. Proud of the acquirements I have derived from my revered tutor, Mr. Abernethy, and admiring his great and varied talents,

and confiding in his theory, from a conviction of the utility of the one, and the proof of the other by practical application, both in the hospital and in my own private practice.

" I am induced to suppose, from the improvement of the tongue, of digestion, and of mental energy, that the iron acts not only immediately upon the blood by entering its composition, but also consecutively, by promoting the energy and healthy action of the stomach, and the organs therewith connected, which we know must produce commensurate effects upon the sensorium and its connections.

" I hope, Sir, you will pardon the length of my communication: its importance will, I trust, plead my apology.

" I am, Sir,

" Yours most faithfully, and respectfully,

" THOMAS RICHMOND."

CASE IX.

I am happy in introducing the following case, communicated by Dr. Carter, physician to the General Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Thomas Wanstale, aged fifty-eight years, a person who had till within the last few years led an intemperate life, was admitted an out-patient of the General Kent and Canterbury Hospital, December 22. 1820. He stated that about the middle of October last he was seized by a most violent pain, commencing at the upper jaw, and extending in a short time over the whole of the left side of the face to the temple. Conceiving that his malady was nothing more than tooth-ache, he had one of the molares extracted, which was extremely decayed, but the removal of which gave him no relief. A second tooth was drawn,

which proved to be sound; and subsequently a third, of the lower jaw; still the pain continued as severe as ever. He was never quite free from it: but several times a day he had a paroxysm so violent, as to make him roll about upon his bed, and to incapacitate him from giving any description of his sufferings. At night he got no rest, owing to the pain and the beating at the temples, which, to use his own expression, was exactly like the ticking of a watch. Several blisters had been applied, lotions had been used, and various medicines had been taken, but nothing had appeared to afford him the least relief, excepting opium, the good effect of which was transient.

When the patient presented himself at the hospital, he was suffering most severely. His head was wrapped up, for he could not endure the least air to blow upon the af-

fected parts. He was in a state of general debility: pulse feeble, tongue foul, bowels costive, probably owing to the opium which he had taken. Dr. Carter prescribed decoction of bark, with ammoniated tincture of guaiacum every three hours, ten grains of Dover's powder at night, and a laxative to be taken as soon as possible. This plan was persisted in for three weeks, with evident advantage to the patient's general health, but without the most trifling mitigation of the pain in the face. On the 13th of January, Dr. Carter commenced the use of the carbonate of iron, by giving a scruple every three hours, made into an electuary with confect. aromat. and syrup. In ten days after the use of the iron he became quite free from pain, his appearance was much improved, and he complained of nothing but numbness of the side of the face. On the 3d of February he had suffered no recurrence of

pain. Ordered to take the decoction of bark with the tincture, spirit of lavender, and aromatic confection, three times a day. On the 8th the numbness was nearly gone. No return of pain, and he remained perfectly well.

CASE X.

Mr. Todd, a very respectable farmer and grazier, residing at Faunfield, in the county of Nottingham, in the twenty-sixth year of his age, of sober habits, and of a delicate lax fibre, began to complain of uneasy sensations in the left side of his face, about a year and a half back, and which he at first ascribed to carious teeth. The pain extended to the left ala nasi, the upper lip, the superior bicuspid teeth, the temple, the upper and lower lip. The infraorbitar nerve, with its manifold rami-

fications, appeared to be the principal seat of the disease, which consisted of paroxysms, in the periods of recurrence, in degree and duration extremely irregular. They would at times excite only moderate complainings, but more generally the most violent screaming and contortions. The pain would sometimes begin below the eye, and descend to the upper and lower lip. The continuance of these fits of pain was very uncertain, frequently remaining five minutes, and sometimes only a few seconds: a perfect freedom from pain and extreme good health were enjoyed in the happy intervals of disease. The scalding, burning, tearing, and boring sensations, allowed my patient the power of describing the kind of torture with which he was afflicted. There did not appear to be any period of the day in which these paroxysms were more violent, or in their recurrence more frequent. His nights

were bad, and the intervals of ease were generally spent in unrefreshing slumbers, alarmed by dreams originating in suggestions of approaching attacks. The paroxysms appeared to come on spontaneously, no external cause exciting them, nor the actions of mastication or of speaking producing this effect. The weaker attacks would frequently admit of alleviation from the compression of the infraorbitar branches, about an inch and a half below the eye. The parts affected always retained their natural appearance, notwithstanding the patient himself always complained of a sense of tumefaction. This train of symptoms clearly pointed out the character of the disease; and the outlines of the case were so strongly marked, that the suggestion of any other malady than the one now treated of was wholly precluded. The plan of cure appeared to my mind equally obvious. Under the mis-

taken idea that the disease originated in my patient's teeth, he suffered the extraction of three molares, with the mortification of not receiving the most distant relief: on the contrary, an increase of all his tortures immediately succeeded: the violence committed in the neighbourhood of the distracted nerves seemed to aggravate their irritability in a tenfold degree, and his miseries appeared to admit of no alleviation. His complaint was now treated as a rheumatic affection, and various external and internal means were tried with the same unavailing effects. At the expiration of a year's suffering, Mr. Todd applied to me, and I immediately commenced that course which former experience had so frequently taught me to be the most successful. In the middle of last May he began to take one drachm of the carbonate of iron three times a day, and I directed him to make use of an ointment to the

affected cheek every night, consisting of the tartrite of antimony, powdered opium, camphor, and mercurial ointment, one drachm of which was used each evening, until a plentiful crop of pustules appeared; its use was then suspended a few days, and renewed when the eruptions were healed. This plan was duly persevered in for three weeks, when my patient had experienced some very trifling degree of alleviation. The medicines now produced uneasy sensations in the bowels, which were removed and in future prevented by mixing the powder with the conf. aromatic, instead of honey; and if diarrhœa at any time accompanied its exhibition, five drops of the tinct. opii, added to each dose, restrained any inordinate action of this nature. During the ensuing six weeks, my patient pretty regularly persevered in the same plan, modifying and altering the treatment according to existing symptoms, occasion-

ally omitting the medicine, a day or two, from unforeseen circumstances. He gradually lost his torments, and is now perfectly well, having seen him only a very few hours ago.

CASE XI.

Thomas Neep, the subject of the following case, resides at Southwell, in the county of Nottingham, aged fifty-five, a man of delicate fibre, with evident traces of scrophulous diathesis, and in the former part of his life addicted to intemperate habits, has been subject to the tortures of tic douloureux during the last ten years. The primary symptoms of the disease were preceded by, and accompanied with, considerable torpor and dizziness, to remove

which the surgeon whom he had consulted had recourse to the judicious means of topical bleeding with leeches, of purging to a great extent, and to other measures suggested with discrimination and skill. This unusual lethargic disposition continued but little abated for the space of two years, the torments in his face at the same time resisting every well-directed remedy for their relief. The facial pains at their commencement were moderate, but became more violent in their progress, and at length acquired that exquisite acuteness, which neither the imagination can easily conceive, nor words readily describe. The paroxysms generally began in the upper gums, extending upwards under the eye, diverging towards the ala nasi, and the whole of the right side of the face. The pain was not of the continued, obtuse kind, like that of chronic rheumatism, but, on the contrary, rather transient, exceedingly

acute and lancinating during its attack. The periods of its recurrence were indefinite, in the intervals of which he was in tolerable ease. There was some uniformity in the direction and origin of the pain: it always began in the gums and upper lip, and darted upwards towards the orbit: the same sensations were also observed on the bony and fleshy palates, on the gums and teeth of the upper jaw, and sometimes on the fauces. Not any exemption from his sufferings could be expected from changes of seasons or climate, though windy weather seemed to increase the complaint to so intense a degree, as to prevent him using the exercise necessary in pursuing his ordinary business. At different periods my patient suffered the extraction of nine sound teeth, without experiencing the slightest relief; on the contrary, after the removal of each tooth, he endured a perceptible increase in the num-

ber and violence of painful paroxysms. He would sometimes suffer five or six of these pains in an hour, while at others he would have as many only in a day, and, of course, they sensibly varied in their degree of violence. The disease produced no perceptible change either in the size or colour of the cheek, excepting what might be attributed to the application of external rubefacients. His sufferings compelled him to have recourse to various means of relief, all of which, however, were equally unavailing. Topical and general bleeding, blistering the part affected, the internal use of the remedies so frequently mentioned in my former narratives, were inefficacious. The immediate seat of this disease appears to have been in the second branch of the fifth pair of nerves, the superior maxillary, which passing through the foramen rotundum, distributes its branches to those parts which I have endeavoured to

describe as being principally affected. As at times my patient suffered also during the paroxysms from a copious effusion of scalding tears, that branch of the ophthalmic which is distributed to the lachrymal gland was probably in a state of morbid irritation. The portio dura of the seventh pair, the pes anserinus, sympathized also with this dreadful derangement, its branches communicating with several of those of the fifth pair.

In the month of last March he was recommended to put himself under my management, when he began to take one drachm of the carbonate of iron twice a day, mixed in honey, and to make use of the emetic tartar ointment, with powdered opium and camphor, applied to his face every night. After a patient trial of five weeks in these means, his pains were something alleviated: the medicines, however, produced

considerable diarrhœa, which was restrained by the addition of a few drops of the tinctura opij. His torments, though mitigated, were still almost intolerable; and I increased the quantity of the carbonate of iron to four scruples three times a day, in which quantity he persevered for two months, at which period the violence of the disease began evidently to yield to the influence of the medicine; and after a perseverance in this increased dose for three months, with some few and short intervals, his pains left him. I have this morning, August 28., seen him, when he favoured me with the outlines of this brief history; and he declares that his comforts and his feelings are too great for his description. At some times, though but very seldom, he has very slight sensations, reminding him of his past sufferings, — nothing, however, which he regards, or has the most remote care about.

Three months after the drawing up of this case, my patient was exposed, in the prosecution of his business, to the greatest vicissitudes and inclemencies of the weather, the effects of which were a recurrence of his painful disease, though with a very considerable decrease in its violence. Notwithstanding the manifest relief which my patient had experienced from his former use of the carbonate of iron, I was unable to prevail with him to resume it; he, therefore, is at times suffering pain.

CASE XII.

I have great pleasure in communicating the following case in the words of the patient himself.

" Sir,

" About the year 1798, being troubled with the tooth-ache, I went to Darkin and

Son, dentists, Whitechapel, to have a tooth extracted: but, unfortunately for me, the dentist broke the tooth, a part of which remained in the jaw, from which I suffered severe pain for the space of two years. From the information I have collected, and from my painful sufferings, I have no doubt that this accident brought on the tic douloureux. The pain returned at intervals of some months, so extremely violent, that it became almost unbearable.

For some years afterwards, I was entirely free from pain, until the latter part of the year 1817, when the prevailing distresses of British sailors being very apparent, roused my attention and exertion in their behalf. Being actively employed in business from morning until night, the midnight hour was employed in planning for their permanent good; and to this inces-

sant application and anxiety for them, I ascribe the return of that horrible complaint, the tic douloureux. My first publication appeared in January, 1818, and the first paroxysm I felt in March following, continuing very irritable from that period until January, 1821, without much intermission, during which time I took a great quantity of different kinds of medicine, till at last I gave up all hopes of being cured, when a kind friend brought me Mr. Hutchinson's book, on the Tic Douloureux. Having made proper enquiry respecting Mr. Hutchinson, and finding him both respectable and skilful, I resolved to try the carbonate of iron as recommended by him. Being in great agony, I began using this medicine on the 26th of January, and regularly persevered in taking it until the 23d of July*, generally taking two drachms and two scruples twice

* At which period Mr. Dennis experienced a complete removal of his agonies.

a day. I mixed it with honey as an electuary, and I occasionally took opening pills, accompanied sometimes with Epsom salts and peppermint water. The recipe for the pills, and any information I can further render, is much at the service of any one afflicted with tic douloureux.

" I am, Sir,

" Your obedient servant,

" JEFFERY DENNIS.

" Author of a Systematic Plan for bettering the Condition of Owners, Commanders, Officers, and Seamen in the Merchant Service.

" *August* 16. 1821.

" No. 4. *Commercial Road, St. George's, East.*"*

* Since the publication of the above, I have been favoured with the following reply to some queries which I made to Mr. Dennis, in consequence of the very large dose of the iron which he had taken, and in which I imagined there might have been some mistake.

" With respect to the doses, I took two drachms and one scruple of the iron twice a day, that is, four drachms and two scruples in a day. — As to the seat of the disease, the whole of the left side of my face has

CASE XIII.

The annexed case I take the liberty of extracting from the sixty-ninth Number of the Gazette of Health.

" A few weeks ago we met with a very distressing case of this disease (tic douloureux) in a lady with an infant at the breast, who had taken the Peruvian bark in large doses, arsenic, and several vegetable poisons, without any advantage, who received

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been affected, and to describe the excruciating pain I felt at different periods is impossible. At times the pain appeared as if it came down from my upper teeth, at others it ran up my nose, and affected my temples, and at other times it stretched as far as my left ear, and indeed the whole of that side of my face: the touch of my lips, and the operation of shaving just under my nose, or even the turning my head, would bring on an excruciating paroxysm. — Previous to the use of the carbonate of iron, I had taken all manner of medicines usually recommended in this disease, but without the least success: I was neither blistered nor operated upon.

" J. D."

immediate relief from the carbonate of iron, and after taking it for three weeks, agreeably to Mr. Hutchinson's plan, was entirely free from pain. After taking it a fortnight, the infant, which she regularly suckled, became feverish, and its motions very black, evidently the effects of the iron."

CASE XIV.

I experience much satisfaction in introducing the following case, illustrative of the beneficial effects of my mode of treating a disease, in its character and symptoms strongly resembling the tic douloureux, the nerves of a different part of the system being affected in a manner similar to those of the face.

Miss B., a young lady residing at Mansfield, in Nottinghamshire, between twenty

and thirty years of age, has been most excruciatingly afflicted with a painful affection of the left side, commencing in October, 1818, and gradually increasing in violence for several months.

The disease was accompanied by the greatest debility, and a total loss of appetite; her rest was destroyed, and so complete was the prostration of her strength, and the dread of the pained side being in the slightest degree touched, that she could scarcely bear to be moved in her bed. She had taken the opinions and the prescriptions of various eminent physicians without experiencing the relief which might reasonably have been expected, from the exertions of great and united professional abilities.

In consequence of this disease assuming the symptoms and character of tic doulou-

reux, I was consulted *, when I found her suffering with this most excruciating pain in her left side, and a very considerable uneasiness in her right side about the hypochondrium. Her complexion was rendered sallow by long continued disease, and her voice was scarcely audible from extreme debility: her pulse about 100. The pains in each side appeared to my patient to be of a completely distinct character, the cause and seat being very different.

The cutaneous and the intercostal nerves † appeared to me the principal seat

* After a careful and minute examination of the symtoms of this dreadful case, I could not have the least hesitation in pronouncing it an example of tic douloureux, and one of the most distressing nature.

† The intercostal nerves pass on betwixt the ribs, in company with the intercostal arteries, and reach even to the sternum. In this course they supply the intercostal muscles and triangularis sterni, while they are at the same time sending out branches, which, piercing the intercostal muscles and fascia of the thorax, are distri-

of this truly painful and melancholy affection; and under the hope and impression that the same mode of treatment which I had successfully adopted in morbid derangements of nerves situated in different parts of the frame, might produce the same happy effects in the case of Miss B., my patient began the use of the carbonate of iron in the month of November, 1820, and continued it, with some few modifications, until the complaint entirely left her, as will be fully and most satisfactorily shown in the following excellent letter, with which I have been very lately favoured by Miss B.

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buted to the muscles on the outside of the chest. This nervous distribution readily and satisfactorily accounts for the pains occasionally experienced by Miss B. in parts rather remote from the seat principally aggrieved. Nervous sympathy exerted its baneful influence over the muscles and fascia of the thorax.

I shall, however, take the liberty of giving, as a preface to this letter, an extract of a communication I have received on the subject of this interesting case, from my friend, Dr. Penningston *, of Nottingham, one of the physicians attendant on this young lady. — " I am glad to find that you are so fully in possession of Miss B.'s case, as to be able to publish the material facts, which I am sure will be found very interesting, and will add another strong testimony to the efficacy of your practice in neuralgia, and analogous affections. Indeed, not to enter into a minute detail of the state of our patient at the time that I first visited her, it will not be misplaced to observe that her sufferings were most severe, her weakness extreme, and her situation most alarming. At this

* Consulting physician to the General Hospital, and physician to the Lunatic Asylum, near Nottingham.

time there existed a high degree of fever, and a great increase of the local pain: the treatment, of course, varied according to the indications and urgency of symptoms, — saline effervescing draughts during the feverish excitement, mild saline aperients, carefully preserving a soluble state of the bowels, an opiate (the black drop) at bed-time very frequently, the belladonna, the fœtid gums, castor, bismuth, cinchona, with various topical applications to the pained part, constitute the principal means employed. I may observe, that Miss B. was neither leeched nor blistered after my attendance, being assured that they had been tried, and had rather aggravated than alleviated the disease. The outward applications were principally narcotic; I cannot say they did any good: some alleviation of pain seemed to be produced by a poultice of ale-dregs, which was continued for some weeks. The medicine from which the effects

appeared more favourable than from any other, was the cinchona. Doctor Baillie was consulted in October 1819, who was of opinion that there existed evident derangement of the digestive functions, and perhaps some fulness of the spleen; but her great sufferings were produced by an extreme morbid sensibility of the nerves of the skin at or near the left hypochondriac region. Dr. Baillie recommended great attention to the state of the bowels, and prescribed a decoction of sarsaparilla with the extract, three times a day, and suggested the probable use of an issue in the side, capable of containing three or four peas, if on examination an enlargement of the spleen was detected: these means proved equally inefficient with every other. In a subsequent consultation on this disease with Miss B.'s physician, we were agreed on the probable efficacy of the carbonate of iron, after the manner recommended by

you, and I am most sincerely rejoiced that she is freed from her severe sufferings by its exhibition under your care."

"Mansfield, Sept. 17. 1821.

"My Dear Sir,

I think it a duty, which I perform with the most heartfelt pleasure and the highest satisfaction, to acquaint you, that after having suffered for more than two years the most agonizing pain from that truly distressing complaint the tic douloureux in my left side, this complaint has, through a merciful Providence, entirely yielded to your happy and valuable discovery for diseases of this nature, the carbonate of iron, when every other resource had proved completely ineffectual. At the same time, I think it due to my other professional attendants to state, that I invariably received from them every possible attention, and every means of relief which their well-

known skill could suggest. I commenced taking the carbonate of iron on the 4th of November 1820, three times a day: in six weeks I happily experienced a trifling amendment in my side, which of course gave me the greatest encouragement to persevere in the plan you had so judiciously recommended. From that time my improvement was gradual, (on that account, I imagine, the more satisfactory), and in February last, I had the inexpressible delight of communicating to my beloved family the agreeable intelligence that I was perfectly free from the pain in my side, which I had not been previously able to say, even for a minute, for the last two years and a half. It is, my dear Sir, a source of great joy to me to have it in my power to assure you, that since that period I have not experienced any recurrence of pain, and that I now remain perfectly free from any symptom of this cruel disorder.

I continued the use of the carbonate of iron six months, three times a day, in the quantity of a drachm to each dose: I then reduced the quantity to two powders in the day, and after some time to one, which one I took for three weeks: I then wholly omitted it for a fortnight, and resumed it for fourteen days, and which I continue to do to this present time, alternately using and omitting it. I feel extremely solicitous, that the statement I have given, may act as a stimulus to others who are unfortunately suffering from this distressing disease, to have recourse to the carbonate of iron, administered in the manner you have recommended, for I can with great truth assert that my recovery is considered wonderful by those of my family who witnessed my extreme sufferings; indeed they were so acute, that at times I could scarcely wish for a prolongation of my existence: but I feel well aware that I am incom-

petent to give that description of my sufferings which this important subject demands. I have not words, my dear Sir, to express my gratitude to you for thus affording me relief in a malady so truly distressing, for it is to you that myself and family are so highly indebted for my restoration to health, and be assured, my dear Sir, so long as we live, we shall ever feel truly grateful to you. Believe me to remain, my dear Sir,

" With much respect,

" Your sincerely obliged

" E. B."

CASE XV.

My very ingenious and respectable friend Mr. Richmond, surgeon, of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, has favoured me with the following history.

" Mr. Overton, the subject of this narrative, resides at Irby, near Grimsby, is a stout and robust man, about sixty years of age, and has suffered severely from repeated attacks of dyspepsia and general derangement of the chylopoietic organs.

" About two years past, he first felt an intermitting pain along the inferior maxillary nerve, or in the ramifications given off to the alveolar processes of the right side. He first thought it a rheumatic pain arising from the loss of all his teeth on that side of the lower jaw, but its increasing severity, which within the last few months became almost insupportable, convinced him that his disease was something more formidable than rheumatism, and occasioned him to send for the assistance of Mr Richmond.

" Mr. Richmond witnessed several paroxysms of pain which produced the

greatest agony and distraction, obliging Mr. Overton to run up and down the house with his hands to his mouth, exclaiming violently during the fits, which were very uncertain both in their duration and the succeeding interval, and equally sudden in their accession and departure. In a moment he would exclaim, 'Oh! it's come,' or, 'Oh! there, it's gone:' he then would continue easy for a longer or shorter period. The torment would continue sometimes five minutes, sometimes ten, or even longer.

"Mr. Richmond gave Mr. Overton the carbonate of iron agreeably to Mr. Hutchinson's directions, and in ten days he was wholly free from pain, and has now continued exempt from all complaint for more than two months, except that last week he felt a particular cold sensation in his gums, which induced him to send for a repetition

of his medicine; there has not, however, been the least return of pain."

Mr. Richmond concludes his narrative with the following ingenious observations.

"May not the generality of cases of neuralgia proceed merely from the disordered function of a nerve, and consequently be capable of a cure? May not those cases of neuralgia which resist the most judicious treatment be such as have acquired diseased structure, for being equally vascular with every other part of the body, Mr. R. would consider nerves equally subject to all the diseases of vascularity?"

CASE XVI.

To Doctor Alderson, of Hull, I am indebted for the following communication of

a case of neuralgia situated in the female mammæ, forcibly illustrating the power of iron over the disease, affecting the nerves of this part of the human frame.

" Hull, 16th Dec. 1821.

" Sir,

" Mrs. J. applied to me for the removal of a painful affection of her breasts: she was fifty-one years of age, corpulent in her person, and the mammæ were very large: the catamenia had ceased.

This complaint had existed a long time, had been treated antiphlogistically without success, and was now deemed schirrhous.

On examination I found the parts morbidly sensible, and the action of passing the hand over the breasts, which in health would have excited pleasurable sensations, was most exquisitely painful, and was ex-

pressed with the countenance and features which characterize tic douloureux. Finding no organic affection of structure, I immediately considered the disease as originating in a morbid sensibility of the nerves, and under that impression, should have prescribed large doses of the bark, as I had before done in other painful cases of neuralgia, had I not adverted to the efficacy of the ferri carbonas in your hands, in the cure of tic douloureux. It was had recourse to, and she recovered in a fortnight and left off the medicine: the disease returned in a month. I conceived that in the present state of her constitution, the medicine was as necessary to her as her bread: it was therefore resumed, and she has perfectly recovered her former health.

"I am, Sir,

"Yours most truly,

"JOHN ALDERSON, M. D."

CASE XVII.

To Doctor Marshall Hall *, of Nottingham, I am under great obligation for the communication of the following interesting narrative, for which I beg he will thus publicly accept my thanks.

" Nottingham, 28 Dec. 1821.

" My Dear Sir,

" I cannot express my obligation to you for having, by your happy suggestion, enabled me to relieve the poor miserable sufferer, of whose torments and cure I shall endeavour to give you a very short history; and I am sure that her heart overflows with gratitude towards you, to whom,

* The ingenious author of an essay on " The Principles of Diagnosis."

An Essay on the Mimoses, &c. &c.

I have of course told her, she owes all her present comfort and happiness.

" Mrs. Jones, aged fifty-eight, became affected seven years ago with excruciating pain pursuing the course of the cutaneous nerves down the outside of the thigh and leg, to the sole of the foot. This pain became at length so constant and severe as to deprive her entirely of sleep; her health and strength and flesh declined, and she became at length compelled to relinquish her employment as superintendant and teacher of a school for children. Operations were performed at three different times, and the nerves were divided between the ancle and heel, in the sole of the foot, and the calf of the leg, by Mr. Higginbottom, surgeon of this place. In addition to these operations, every remedy was prescribed, but prescribed in vain, until the situation of the poor patient be-

came deplorable indeed. At an early period of the disease, Mrs. Jones had the experienced and able assistance of Doctor Storer, with the same unfortunate result.

" Four months ago, Mrs. Jones began to take half a drachm of the carbonate of iron twice a day, and she has persevered in it to the present day. In about six weeks from the commencement of this medicine, she began to experience some trifling mitigation of her sufferings, but the relief was so slow and gradual as to have appeared almost imperceptible; but the pain has at length completely yielded to the powers of the iron. The general health of my patient has materially improved; her bowels have kept in a regular state, and her strength and flesh have returned. She has now been two whole months perfectly free from pain; she has re-acquired all her wonted activity, and

has resumed, after a long period of helplessness, pain, and misery, her domestic occupations. Believe me, my dear Sir,

" Ever most truly yours,

" MARSHALL HALL, M.D. F.R.S.E."

In addition to the above letter, Doctor Hall has obliged me with a statement of this deplorable case, drawn up in an intelligent manner by Mr. Jones, the husband of the poor sufferer: it contains a confirmation of the narrative of Doctor Hall, with a very proper expression of grateful feelings for the happy recovery of his wife: it would, therefore, be needless to give a copy of this document.

CASE XVIII.

The following case, with its mode of treatment and happy termination, will be

satisfactorily explained in the language of the very intelligent and well-informed sufferer, two of whose letters I shall therefore take the liberty of copying.

" Johnstone Castle, near Paisley, N. B.
" 4 October, 1821.

" SIR,

" For almost five years past, I have suffered from nearly an uninterrupted headache, which has been treated by my medical advisers, both as rheumatic, bilious, and nervous. They have failed, however, in giving me any degree of permanent health, and as I have now begun to try the effects of the carbonate of iron, the use of which has been introduced by you to public notice, I propose putting myself under your directions, while taking it, if you encourage me to persevere.

" I will state to you as distinctly as I can, the symptoms of my complaint, and

the modes of cure which have been unsuccessfully tried. The headache is confined entirely to the forehead, chiefly seated above the right eye, sometimes the whole of my forehead is affected, and the pain will occasionally remove suddenly to the left temple. I have every day a violent throbbing in both temples, and the pain is sometimes entirely confined to a tooth in the upper jaw, and extending to the nose. The painful sensation is seldom very acute; it continues sometimes the whole day, at others an hour or two, and when the teeth and nose are affected, it seldom lasts more than half an hour, and at times only a few minutes. My digestive organs have all along been very much out of order, and for the last three months, I have taken purgative medicines and mercury to a great extent. There is a peculiarity attending my evacuations, to which I wish very particularly to call your attention. I have

voided every day during the above period, immense quantities of slimy, stringy mucus, varying from very dark to light colour, and sometimes very black and fœtid. I have generally three evacuations every day, composed entirely of this morbid mucus, and notwithstanding the long continuance of the purgatives, never having omitted them for a day, there is still very little diminution of this excretion. For the cure of my complaints, I have tried Galvanism and electricity, and have taken arsenic and the bark; have had my head shaved and blistered, and have tried the cold and warm baths, all without producing any permanent good effects. I think the purgative medicines have to a certain degree removed the dull oppressive feelings about my eyes, and the languor and excessive nervousness with which I am often oppressed. I may also mention that blood has been abstracted from my head by

cupping, leeching, and opening a vein, without doing me any good. I will finish my statement by mentioning that I am forty-one years of age, and that my constitution appears still strong, as I can take exercise without much fatigue; my appetite is always good, my stomach apparently not having suffered from my painful complaints, or from the various medicines which I have ineffectually taken. I have taken the carbonate of iron for three days, at the rate of forty-eight grains each day. If you approve of my going on with it, you will be so good as to mention the regimen which I ought to follow, the quantity of medicine to be taken, and the effects likely to be produced by it. I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"Ludovic Houstoun."

In my answer to Mr. Houstoun, I recommended the immediate adoption of the

following plan. I prescribed one drachm of the carbonate of iron to be taken three times a day, accompanied with a tonic mixture, consisting of the decoction, extract and tincture of bark, and a pill at bed time containing half a grain of the extract. stramonii, two grains of the sulphate of zinc, and three of rhubarb, directing the bowels to be kept regularly soluble by the occasional use of the decoct. aloes comp. of the London Pharm.

I prohibited the use of mercurials, of purgatives, and of all medicines calculated to debilitate the energies of the nervous system. His diet I wished to be nutritious, and I allowed a small quantity of wine. From this plan, which was persevered in for two months, (omitting the bark mixture after the first fortnight, from its disagreeing with his bowels,) the most decided

and happy relief was experienced, as the following letter will very clearly elucidate.

" Johnstone Castle, 9 Dec. 1821.

" Sir,

" I can hardly find words to express the pleasurable feelings under which I address this letter to you.

" I am nearly thoroughly cured of the most tormenting of maladies, which has for a very long period rendered my life a burthen rather than a blessing. My present feelings and recollections tell me that I have not known what health was for at least fifteen years past.

" As you predicted, the head ache, the throbbing, and all the other unpleasant symptoms that I detailed to you, have almost entirely disappeared, and I hail

returning health with sentiments of the deepest gratitude to you as one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. You have certainly, Sir, made one of the greatest discoveries in medicine in the present age. I am perfectly certain that your mode of treatment would be successful in a variety of nervous complaints, besides the comparatively rare one denominated tic douloureux. With the most sincere wishes, &c. &c.

" I remain, dear Sir,

" Your faithful and obedient Servant,

" LUDOVIC HOUSTOUN.

" P.S. I am unwilling to give up altogether the use of the iron, in case my old enemy should rally, and pay me another visit: occasionally a slight throbbing at the right temple, and the singing noise in the left ear are the only remnants of

the various ails that formerly distracted me. L. H."

Mr. Houstoun remained in the same comparatively happy state of health during six or eight weeks, after the receipt of his last letter, at the expiration of which period I received his report, that the enemy had again rallied, but with very diminished energies. During the last two or three months, my patient has regularly communicated with me, and the powers of the iron over this horrid disease have been most fully established, not by a completely satisfactory eradication of his torments, but by a manifestation of its influence in keeping within very tolerable bounds, this foe to his former peace and happiness.

CASE XIX.

To Doctor Payne, Physician to the General Hospital, near Nottingham, I am under obligations for the following letter.

Nottingham, Jan. 2. 1822.

" My Dear Sir,

" I do not remember meeting with more than one case of neuralgia since I had the pleasure of reading your work on that disease, and the patient, a man between forty and fifty years of age, has been effectually cured of his complaint by the use of the carbonate of iron. Not having preserved any record of the case, I am sorry I cannot give you all the information respecting it which its importance appears to demand. I am consequently prevented informing you the length of time the patient was affected with the

disease, or the apparent cause of the attack, nor how long the use of the medicine was persisted in. To the best of my recollection, however, the complaint left him in a very few days from the exhibition of the carbonate of iron. He is a man of a robust constitution, and does not appear to have been injured by intemperance, which circumstances may perhaps account for the speedy removal of his complaint.

"I have met him by accident once or twice in the course of the last six months, when he told me he had felt nothing of his late disorder since he took the medicine last prescribed, which was one drachm of the carbonate of iron three times a day: he was as severely affected with neuralgia faciei as any patient I have ever witnessed labouring under its torturing pangs. The paroxysms of pain were very frequent, and with the feeling of an undulating motion,

were attended with convulsive action of the muscles of the face and neck." In the space of a month after the receipt of Doctor Payne's communication, he very obligingly took the trouble of informing me that his patient had again applied for his assistance, having suffered from a very severe recurrence of his painful and inveterate foe. The Doctor again had recourse to the same weapons with which he had been formerly successful, and the event shall be given in the Doctor's own words.

" ' It is with considerable satisfaction I communicate to you an account of the very favourable result that has attended the exhibition of the carbonate of iron in the case of neuralgia, concerning the recurrence of which, I transmitted you some account a week or two ago. The patient has taken during the continuance of the last attack, five ounces of that medicine,

with the exception of one dose of four scruples. The first ounce was given in doses of two scruples three times a day, with very considerable relief. Two ounces were then presented in doses of four scruples three times in the day, when every appearance of the disorder having entirely left him, he was advised to continue taking the same dose once or twice in the day for a few days longer, to which plan he informs me he has strictly adhered, and it being nearly a fortnight since he experienced any pain, he did not think it necessary to take any more of the medicine, and which was therefore discontinued about eight days since. This attack of neuralgia has manifestly been removed in the space of six days from the time my patient began to take the iron, and I think that had he began with four scruples instead of two, there would have been an entire cessation of pain at an earlier period.'

"I think it has not fallen to my lot to have witnessed more than three or four cases of neuralgia, one of which fell under my care a few years ago. Various remedies were then tried: this patient, who was a female about forty-five years of age, is now, and has been for some time entirely free from any symptoms of her old disorder; I have strong reason to believe, that the disease gave way to the influence of the carbonate of iron.

"When I meet with any other cases of neuralgia, I intend, after clearing the primæ viæ, to prescribe, with every confidence of a successful issue, the carbonate of iron, after the manner you have so judiciously recommended, that being the remedy on which I feel inclined to place more reliance than on any others I have either heard of, read of, or adopted. I am, my dear Sir, very sincerely, your faithful friend,

"HENRY PAYNE, M. D."

CASE XX.

Mr. Hey, Surgeon, of Leeds, has communicated to me the two following cases, both of which occurred in the practice of Mr. Cass, a most respectable surgeon in the same place.

Mrs. H. aged about fifty-four, of spare habit, was attacked in December, 1820, with that affection of the nerves on the right side of the face, called tic douloureux, which gradually increasing, became excruciating. She was attended by the first practitioners in physic where she resided, who treated her very judiciously upon the old system, but without benefit, — the disease becoming daily worse: having friends in Leeds, she determined upon visiting them: and put herself under Mr. Cass's care on the 9th of February, 1821. Mr. C. tried a variety of medicines until

the 23d with different degrees of success, but without any permanent advantage. Having lately read Mr. Hutchinson's pamphlet on the treatment of this disease, Mr. C. determined to give her the carbonate of iron: she began with doses of half a drachm regularly every four hours, night and day, and the dose was gradually increased until she took a drachm at each dose. No sensible benefit was derived from this plan during the first fortnight, but afterwards the paroxysms became less violent, and at longer intervals also, and by perseverance in the remedy until the second of May, the malady totally left her, and she has remained free from it ever since.*

* Her daughter being in a dangerous situation a few weeks ago, anxiety and close attention produced a slight return of the disease, but it went off in a few days without the aid of medicine. Mr. C. wishes also, to observe, that the pain was confined to the right side of the face, never extending beyond a line drawn from the middle of the forehead and nose.

Mrs. H. took the carbonate of iron in currant jelly, which always agreed well with her stomach: at one time it occasioned the inconvenience of a too confined state of the bowels, which was obviated by giving occasionally at bed time, a five grain pill of the pilula aloes cum myrrhâ.

CASE XXI.

Mrs. I., fifty-eight years of age, subject to chronic rheumatism in the hips and lower extremities, consulted Mr. Cass on the 13th of December, 1821, being attacked with what she jocosely called her old enemy; having attended this lady in the years 1814 and 1818, for a painful affection of the nerves of the left side of the face, which in length of time was overcome by the bark and volatiles, with the extracts of hemlock

and henbane. Mr. Cass's success in the case of Mrs. H., induced him on this occasion to give her immediately the carbonate of iron.

After taking it in doses of one scruple every third hour, night and day for a week, she found the pain less violent and with longer intermissions, and after three weeks administration of the carbonate of iron, the pain has left her, and she cannot help expressing her pleasure at the short period of her suffering during this paroxysm, compared with her former attacks. Her appetite and general health are also much improved under its use. The bowels becoming costive, Mr. C. had latterly added two grains of powdered rhubarb to each powder, which has had the pleasant effect of just keeping the bowels soluble.

CASE XXII.

Doctor Marsden, Senior Physician to the General Hospital, near Nottingham, has favoured me with the following case of neuralgia sciatica.

"My patient was a married woman, about forty years of age, and not in very affluent circumstances: she had for some time (I do not recollect the particular period,) laboured under great pain in the course of the left sciatic nerve, extending down the thigh, which gradually increased in violence, till at length she was obliged to confine herself to bed, to prevent the excruciating pain she experienced on the limb being moved. In this state I found her; she appeared to have suffered considerably from the disease; her strength and flesh were much reduced, with great

languor of countenance, and general debility. Her pulse, bowels, and catamenia regular: the state of her tongue I do not recollect: her appetite bad.

"Taking all these symptoms and circumstances into consideration, I had no difficulty in concluding in my own mind, that it was a clear case of neuralgia sciatica: under this impression, I put her upon your plan with the carbonate of iron, premising an aperient to clear out the bowels. My patient took two scruples of the carbonate three times a day, till the complaint left her, which was from a fortnight to three weeks. She called upon me in six weeks quite free from complaint, having regained her flesh and strength; and to convince me of her complete recovery, she had walked to Nottingham from her own house, a distance of at least four miles.

As I visited my patient once only, I

could not make any observations upon the effect of the medicine, but I understood that it produced no particular effect upon the system, except the highly satisfactory one of removing the complaint most effectually, and restoring the strength of the patient.

"This imperfect sketch is all I can recollect of the case, and if you think it worth placing in a corner of your valuable and original work, it is very much at your service.

"I remain, my dear Sir,

"Yours most faithfully,

"Wm. Marsden, M. D."

Nottingham, Jan. 14. 1822.

CASE XXIII.

To Doctor Payne, Physician to the General Hospital near Nottingham, I am

obliged by the communication of the following brief history.

" Since I last wrote to you, I have met with a case, which, though not so well marked as the one I had the pleasure of sending to you some little time past, may with great propriety be termed a case of neuralgia. It occurred in a man who is now, and has been for some time, an out-patient of our hospital, under my care, and who has long been subject to dyspepsia. He was rather suddenly seized with severe pain of the head and face; which appeared to me, from the agony he was in, to resemble the torture of neuralgia so much, as to induce me to prescribe the carbonate of iron, one ounce of which, in doses of one drachm three times daily, very speedily put an end to his sufferings. Before concluding this letter, I may take the liberty of assuring you, that I entertain very great confidence

in the efficacy of this preparation of iron, in removing the painful paroxysms of neuralgia. It is the remedy to which I shall in future have immediate recourse, whenever occasion offers, and I feel much inclined to believe that its reputation will very soon be established, because, to the best of my knowledge, no plan of treatment has hitherto been devised, that had any effect in mitigating the sufferings of those who were afflicted with this obstinate and painful malady.

"I continue, with great respect,

"Your faithful friend,

"H. PAYNE, M. D."

CASE XXIV.

The Honourable Mrs. Lumley Savile, of Rufford Park, in the county of Notting-

ham, had been for some time afflicted with a neuralgiac affection of each side of the face, on which account she consulted me in the latter end of September 1821.

I found the disease occupying the second branch of the fifth pair, and the pes anserinus of the seventh, and notwithstanding the disorder, in all its bearings, assumed the marked and characteristic symptoms of tic douloureux, I do not remember seeing a case attended with so tolerable a degree of pain, or it is not improbable that I might have been in some measure mistaken in the degree of suffering, by the extreme fortitude and patience manifested by the lady in the course of her complaint: it was, however, when compared with the severity of others, what may be denominated a mild example of this disease.

The carbonate of iron, given in large

doses, very soon produced the happiest effects in removing the pain from Mrs. Lumley Savile's face, and in restoring her general health.

CASE XXV.

Doctor Ayre, physician to the Dispensary, Hull, has favoured me with the following communication.

"Hull, April 2. 1822.

"Dear Sir,

"In reply to the enquiries which you do me the honour to make, respecting the results of the trials which I have made of the carbonate of iron in the treatment of tic douloureux, I have the greatest satisfaction in assuring you, that its powers and success have very greatly exceeded the

expectations I had been induced to entertain of this remedy. I have tried it in several cases of painful affections of the nerves: in some the medicine failed, and it did so, apparently, from the complaint being of a mixed kind, or perhaps to speak more correctly, from its being only a modification of rheumatism; for in those cases where the symptoms of the disorder were more unequivocally marked, the remedial influence of the medicine appeared to me highly satisfactory and complete. Of well-marked cases, however, I have met with but three examples: my success in all was the same, and the plan of treatment I pursued, was limited exclusively to the use of the carbonate of iron as recommended by you. The last case which I had, was admitted into the Dispensary on the 22d of last October. The poor man had been labouring under the complaint during the preceding four months. The account which

he gave on his admission was, that the pain was principally seated immediately above the right eyebrow, and that it began suddenly. The paroxysms of pain were very frequent during the day and night, and very trivial causes appeared to bring them on; the simple operation of shaving the right side of the upper lip was one of the most frequent exciting causes, but a slight gust of air, or a partial agitation of the body, were often sufficient to renew them. On several occasions, he became insensible from the intensity of torture, and generally during the continuance of the paroxysm, he was unable either to move or speak. During the course of his disorder, his eyelid became so weakened as to prevent its perfect elevation. The functions of his stomach and bowels were natural, and his general health was unimpaired.

Soon after the appearance of his disorder, he applied to a respectable medical practitioner of this place, and subsequently to others: he was at first bled, and took half an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia daily for a fortnight; he had afterwards blisters and leeches applied to the temples, and had also a tooth extracted, which, he thought, aggravated his pains. He took a great variety of medicines, without any relief, and was pronounced incurable by his last medical attendant.

"On his admission at the Hull Dispensary, I immediately ordered him half a drachm of the carbonate of iron to be taken three times a day, abstaining wholly from the use of any other remedial agent. At the end of a fortnight, I had the satisfaction to find that his complaint had very considerably abated in the degree of its intensity, and that at the expiration of seven weeks

every trace of the disease was completely removed. It is now more than three months since my patient was discharged, and I have learnt within these few last days, from himself, that though his employment has exposed him greatly to the different vicissitudes of weather, he has had no return whatever of his disorder.

"The other two cases of tic douloureux were equally well marked as this, but a detailed account of them, is, I apprehend, unnecessary. — With my sincere thanks to you for having given into my power the means of removing this, perhaps, the most painful of complaints, I remain,

"Dear Sir, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. Ayre, M. D."

CASE XXVI.

Mr. Richard Scholes Hutchinson, dresser to Thompson Forster, Esq., Senior Surgeon of Guy's Hospital, has communicated to me the following case.

Thomas Kilday, an out-patient of Guy's Hospital, aged sixty-three, a man of an excellent, robust constitution, with an exemption from every previous indisposition, has been subject to slight paroxysms of neuralgia faciei during the last two years, but which increased considerably in severity in January last, and were so readily excited, that even a gust of wind blowing against his face, or touching his beard with his hand, were sufficient to produce a most painful attack.

The disorder principally affected the supra and infra orbitar and submaxillary

branches; the paroxysms in number exceeding forty in the day, and in violence being extreme.

The poor man began, on the 7th of March, to take two scruples of the carbonate of iron three times a day; on the 20th of March, the pain had wholly left the supra and infra orbitar branches, and on the 27th he experienced a thrilling sensation only in the submaxillary, every vestige of the disease having disappeared from every other part. The dose of the carbonate of iron never exceeded one drachm three times a day, and was unaccompanied by any auxiliary remedy. — He suffered the extraction of three sound teeth, with an aggravation of all his torments. — He had been for a long period under the care of very able practitioners, whose prescriptions were entirely unavailing and useless.

CASE XXVII.

Dr. Yeats, of Queen Street, Mayfair, has most obligingly communicated to me the following history of the case of his lady.

17, Queen Street, Mayfair,
April 14. 1822.

DEAR SIR,

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 10th instant, requesting some information respecting the case of Mrs. Y., who has been a very severe sufferer from the neuralgia spasmodica of the sciatic and tibial nerves of the right thigh and leg. I regret that I cannot at present send you a minute detail of the history of the case, as the disease has not yet terminated, but undoubtedly a most powerful and salutary impression has been made upon it by the subcarbonas ferri, which the perusal of your valuable pamphlet suggested to me. The patient in

question, a lady in the thirty-ninth year of her age, was seized on the 7th of March with an uneasy sensation in the outer ancle of the right foot, and a little up the calf of the leg, as if she had the cramp; it soon increased to pain, which in another day or two became so violent as to require narcotics in considerable and repeated doses. Leeches, cupping and blistering were had recourse to without any beneficial result, and sedatives in the quantity, at one period of the disease, of extract. conii. gr. v., and extract. hyoscyami gr. iij. every six hours, and at another period, of one hundred and sixty drops of laudanum in four hours, produced only a temporary truce to her sufferings, and with a person, too, on whom five and ten drops act as a sufficient soporofic for many hours in her ordinary health. On the 14th of March the cortex was given in the form of the decoction, extract, and compound tincture,

with five drops of laudanum every four hours with decided relief both to the pain, and by the acquirement of better feelings of general health. The bark was continued to April 3rd, on which day, in consequence of the patient still suffering greatly from the complaint, I commenced with the subcarbonas ferri in the manner stated by you in your publication. She began with a dose of ʒss thrice a day, and has continued its use to this time, varying the dose from one to ʒij. The effect has unquestionably been very beneficial by increase of appetite, better spirits, and above all, by a considerable abatement of distress in the nerves of the limb, the best proof of which is not only from a much less quantity of laudanum being required, but for two or three days together she has been remarkably comfortable without any narcotic at all, having rest at night and

tranquil days; the disease, however, is by no means as yet subdued, as pain is occasionally complained of, and an indescribable restlessness has required the aid of ℥ vj. tinct. opii at bedtime, but only thrice in the last six days. At the commencement of the complaint she could not sit at all, on account of pressure bringing on a paroxysm, and the touch of the finger along the course of the nerve would immediately produce the same effect, and she is only able to lie in bed in one position, on the left side. But since the commencement of the subcarbonas ferri she has been able to sit above a quarter of an hour, and sometimes half an hour at a time, with some comfort at her meals. I have to observe that both Sir Henry Halford and myself pronounced the complaint to be a pure affection of the nerves of the limb, unaccompanied by any disease of the liga-

mentous or muscular parts, which was, indeed, sufficiently evident by her being able to walk without lameness, and yet direct pressure on the nerve in any way would cause pain, great distress, and induce a paroxysm; and this leads me to the remark that it is not unlikely that sufficient discrimination has not always been made between this excruciating disease and what is called sciatica. I take them to be quite distinct. I shall be happy in informing you of the final result of this case; and will you permit me to add, that I think it would be useful if in your second edition, now about to be published, you would state the general characters of the constitution of the patients who have laboured under this complaint, with the condition of the digestive organs and the state of the intestinal actions during the disease; and may I express a hope that you will go on to apply your experience and abilities with in-

creased success in investigating the nature of this very formidable malady.

" I am, dear Sir,

" Your very faithful and obedient servant,

" G. D. YEATS."

" 17, Queen Street, May Fair,
" April 25. 1822."

" MY DEAR SIR,

" Your letter, dated the 21st instant, reached me the day before yesterday, just at the moment I was setting out on a professional visit into the country. I did not return till this morning, otherwise I would have taken up my pen to have had the pleasure of stating, in answer to your question, that Mrs. Y. has gradually improved in her health since I wrote to you: she now makes but little complaints of pain in the limb, although she has still uneasiness there: she has continued to take the steel, and is going on with it. She now can bear a good deal of pressure on the nerve without

inducing distress, and has good nights, and more comfortable days; but towards evening she becomes very wearied from not being able to sit the usual length of time without inconvenience, although she is able to sit considerably longer than she did a fortnight ago. She can use more freedom in different positions of the limb, both in the recumbent and sitting posture, and the numbness of the foot is nearly gone. I cannot do otherwise than attribute these favorable changes to the steel. The dose now taken is ʒss. three times a-day: I have continued it at that quantity, because, in the earlier stage of the complaint, a larger dose seemed to distress the intestines: she was then confined to bed, but since she has been up, and moving about the house, she has occasionally, of her own accord, taken a larger dose (ʒj.) without this inconvenience. I shall have much satisfaction in reading the second edition of your pamphlet, as soon

as it makes its appearance. It is not improbable that the cure of Mrs. Y., with its mode of treatment, may induce me to publish some observations on the subject.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"G. D. YEATS."

My case-book furnishes me with many similar examples of the successful exhibition of the ferri carbonas in the cure or alleviation of neuralgia, and other diseases of an analogous character. A multiplication of their number in this essay would serve the purpose only of increasing its bulk: the value of the medicine is rendered sufficiently manifest by the cases above recorded.

I cannot resist the pleasure of adding to the testimonies of my different medical

friends, that of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., whose opinion is expressed in the following letter.

"DEAR SIR,

"In the few cases in which I have had an opportunity of trying the carbonate of iron, as a remedy for the tic douloureux, I have reason to believe that it has a very benign influence in that disorder; and I beg to state, that I was induced to prescribe it entirely from the public recommendation of it which I derived from you.

"I am yours, very truly,

"ASTLEY COOPER."

POSTSCRIPT.

The kind and very flattering terms in which my little work has been noticed by several able and respectable medical and literary reviewers, have been a source of truly gratifying sensations, and demand, in this place, my grateful acknowledgments. It has fortunately escaped the censure of all those who have taken the trouble of analyzing it, and has received the praise and approbation of that class of men whose good and favourable opinions are really estimable. The French reviewers, with their wonted complaisance, have dealt out encomiums with too lavish a hand; but to the concluding remark of a critique in a late number of the "Journal Général de Médecine," I have some wish to make a reply. This reviewer imagines it would have been more satisfactory had I given

a history of my unsuccessful, as well as of my more fortunate cases, as he (the reviewer) cannot hope that I have been uniformly successful in the treatment of this obstinate disease.

Had I advanced the bold and untenable assertion, that the carbonate of iron acted as a neverfailing specific in this disease, that it never disappointed us in curing the most obstinate case of tic douloureux, or that the malady of thirty years' continuance was equally amenable to its influence as that of only three weeks' or three months' duration, I might probably have merited this very slight reproof. * A professional experience of nearly thirty years, however, has taught me not to place implicit confidence in the curative and specific agency

* Two or three of the foregoing cases bear the most ample testimony of my unwillingness to claim any *specific* virtue in the remedial agency of this preparation of iron.

of any remedy at present known. We are not in these days to be taught, that the bark will not always subdue the paroxysms of intermittent fever, and that even mercury has been known to fall short of the subjugation of syphilis.* The carbonate of iron has, in a few instances under my own cognizance, been inadequate to the difficult task of curing the tic douloureux; an acknowledgment of which is sufficiently manifest in two or three of the preceding cases, as well as in a few others which I have not published. I can, however, assert, that in those very few instances, it has done more towards alleviation than any other known remedy. The carbonate of iron has very frequently been given in very

* "The fact that it (mercury) acts with equal rapidity and effect upon all cases of inflamed iris, whatever their origin, seems to me to show that the idea of a *specific* antisyphilitic virtue possessed by this mineral is an erroneous one." Vide Cooper's and Travers' Surgical Essays, Part I. 3d edition.

improper cases, and in the most injudicious manner, without any due consideration of peculiarities of constitution, or of the proximate cause of the disease; circumstances essentially requisite to be attended to in the administration of a powerfully stimulant remedy. In the very few unsuccessful cases under my own management, I can almost uniformly attribute the want of success, rather to the absence of a due perseverance in the use of the remedy than to any failure in its power. It ought also to be perfectly understood, that collateral means of relief have uniformly been used in conjunction with the iron, and that the treatment is by no means confined to one remedy. Where symptoms of active inflammation have existed, the means usually employed to subdue inflammation have been had recourse to, and the iron either suspended, or never used. I have of late been consulted by many persons, under the

injudicious use of iron, when high inflammatory action has existed in the nerves particularly affected, and when the neighbouring parts and the general constitution have sympathised with the augmented arterial impulse. To my intelligent readers it is needless for me to explain the results of a practice founded on a complete ignorance of all medical principles. Mr. Abernethy very justly remarks, that "nerves strikingly resemble arteries in their modes of communication: sometimes they conjoin even by considerable branches, such as must be manifest in common dissections; but they communicate in surprising numbers by their minute ramifications." This circumstance is not perhaps so familiarly known to professional men, since it cannot be perceived unless in the course of a very minute dissection; and to understand how very numerous these communications are, the representations given by the German authors, of their very delicate and laborious

dissections, may be advantageously consulted.

I cannot in this place omit acknowledging my obligations to Mr. Joseph Swan, of Lincoln, the ingenious author of a "Dissertation on the Treatment of Morbid local Affections of Nerves, &c.," for his permission to take some few lines from the excellent engraving of the facial nerves prefixed to his Dissertation, and which have contributed to render more complete the engraving which accompanies my little work. The whole circle of the medical sciences is essentially indebted to Mr. Swan for the important addition which he has made to our present confined knowledge of the physiology and pathology of the nervous system.

I must not conclude this short postscript without manifesting my grateful and happy

recollections of a very sincerely respected friend, the revered author of the Medical Spectator, a physician of the first rate talents, and of extensive and varied information.

Could I have obtained the permission of mentioning the name of the ingenious author of this work, the readers of my essay would cheerfully unite with me in awarding him that ample share of praise and gratitude to which his valuable and various works afford him so just a title. I hope he will pardon me thus publicly thanking him for two excellent additional papers very recently published, in one of which the author advances a claim to the first promulgation of some modern improvements in the healing art; in the other, he has favoured the profession with a valuable essay on Congenital Dyspepsia; and it is my sincere wish that he

may persevere in communicating instruction to his brethren, by a regular continuation of his admirable lucubrations.

The author of the Medical Spectator, in his additional paper above alluded to, prefers a just claim to priority in the promulgation of the preparation of the carbonate of iron, in a work which he published so far back as the year 1792, many years antecedent to the publication of the last edition of the London Pharmacopœia.

THE END.

LONDON:
Printed by A. & R. Spottiswoode,
New-Street-Square.